

OVERSEAS MOVING  
BY MICHAEL GERSON  
01-446 1300

# FINANCIAL TIMES

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Weekend October 24/25 1987

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Oil and Gas  
Worldwide

## WORLD NEWS

### US-Soviet summit hopes hit

The Soviet Union and the US yesterday failed to agree a date for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr Gorbachev said he was not satisfied with progress towards an understanding on the US 'Star Wars' defence plan, but still hoped to visit Washington this year. **Back Page**

### Thatcher to visit Nigeria

Mrs Thatcher is expected to visit Nigeria, Britain's biggest black African trading partner, early next year, but will not visit southern African black states. **Back Page**

### Senate rejects Bork

In a big defeat for President Reagan, the US Senate voted 58-42 to reject his nominee, Judge Robert Bork, for the Supreme Court. **Back Page**

### Iran warns Kuwait

In a thinly-veiled threat to Kuwait, Iran warned of more strikes against Iraq's supporters in the Gulf war. **Page 2**

### Sinn Féin victory

Sinn Féin won two West Belfast city council by-elections caused by the resignation of Alliance Party councillors. **Page 2**

### Belgium frees fans

A Brussels court freed three of the 25 Liverpool football fans held in connection with the 1985 Heysel Stadium riot. They are expected to return home, but could still face charges. **Page 2**

### AIDS funds boosted

The DHSS is to give an extra £8.5m to the North-West, North-East, and South-East Thames health regions, which handle four out of every five AIDS cases in Britain. **Page 2**

### Soviet generals killed

Five Soviet generals died in a helicopter crash on Monday, a Moscow military newspaper reported. **Page 2**

### 'Kidnap plot' pressure

Labour leaders will press Mrs Thatcher for an announcement on claims that British security services were involved in a plot to kidnap African National Congress leaders. **Page 4**

### Heffer attacks Labour

The Labour Party is offering only 'second-hand Thatcherism', said Labour MP and former party chairman Eric Heffer before a socialist conference. **Page 4**

### Indian army deaths

A landmine planted by Tamil rebels blew up a lorry carrying Indian troops in east Sri Lanka, killing four and hurting six. **Page 4**

### Greek wire-tap claims

Greece's Conservative and Communist parties united to accuse the socialist government of systematic wire-tapping of opposition telephones. **Page 2**

### S Korea restraint call

South Korean opposition presidential candidate Kim Dae-jung called for restraint after two days of violent incidents at election rallies. **Page 2**

### Record-breaking

Starcross, Devon, drummer Rory Blackwell claimed a world record for playing 401 drums in 58.5 seconds. **Page 2**

### Briefly...

ITN is to launch a night-time TV news service, called Linea Ventura, French film star, died in Paris, aged 68.

## MARKETS

<b>DOLLAR</b>	
New York lunchtime:	
DM 1.7805	
FF 5.9586	
Sfr 1.47075	
Y141.95	
London:	
DM 1.7885 (1.8135)	
FF 5.975 (6.05)	
Sfr 1.4775 (1.5055)	
Y142.85 (144.6)	
Dollar index 100.7 (101)	
Tokyo close Y144.15	
<b>US LUNCHTIME RATES</b>	
Fed Funds 7 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills:	
yield: 5.32%	
Long Bond: 9 1/8%	
yield: 8.1%	
<b>GOLD</b>	
New York: Comex Dec latest	
\$478.4	
London: \$472.5 (\$471.5)	

<b>STERLING</b>	
New York lunchtime \$1.683	
London: \$1.677 (1.65)	
DM 2.905 (2.935)	
FF 10.02 (9.952)	
Sfr 2.4775 (2.485)	
Y239.25 (238.5)	
Sterling index 73.5 (73.4)	
<b>LONDON MONEY</b>	
3-month interbank:	
closing rate 9 1/4% (10%)	
<b>NORTH SEA OIL</b>	
Brent 15-day Nov (Argus)	
\$19.00 (19.125)	
<b>STOCK INDICES</b>	
FT-100 1,395.8 (-38.0)	
FT-A All Share 930.33 (-2.4%)	
FT-SE 100 1,795.3 (-38.0)	
FT-A long gilt yield index:	
High coupon: 9.64 (9.67)	
New York (lunchtime):	
DJ Ind Av 1,944.3 (-8.13)	
Tokyo:	
Nikkei 23,201.22 (-1,203.23)	

Chief price changes yesterday: **Back Page**

Austria Sch52; Bahrain Dm0.650; Bermuda \$1.50; Belgium Bfr49; Canada C\$1.00; Cyprus Cyp2.75; Denmark Dkr4.00; Egypt E£2.25; Finland Fmk7.00; France FFs.50; Germany DM2.20; Greece Dr100; Hong Kong HK\$12; India Rupee5; Indonesia Rp3.100; Israel NIS2.50; Italy Lira200; Japan Yen100; Jordan Jds100; Kuwait KD100; Lebanon L£125; Luxembourg Lfr48; Malaysia RM2.25; Mexico Ps500; Monaco Mfr500; Netherlands Fl.100; Norway Nkr100; Philippines Pso100; Portugal Esc100; Saudi Rial5; Singapore S\$4.10; Spain Ptas25; Sri Lanka Rupee30; Sweden Sfr6.00; Switzerland Sfr2.20; Taiwan NT\$80; Thailand Bht50; Tunisia Dtn0.800; Turkey Lira50; UAE Dirh50; USA \$1.00.

SELLING PRICE IN IRELAND 60p

## BUSINESS SUMMARY

### Financial support deal for Fokker

**FOKKER**, the financially troubled Dutch aerospace company, is to receive an estimated £1 200m (£590m) to £1 300m in financial support from the Dutch Government and commercial banks. The financing has strings attached, and could mean merging with a competitor and a strengthening of management. **Page 19**

**UK GOVERNMENT** published its 1987 Employment Bill with proposals for further trade union reform and measures on union discipline and cutting young non-trainees' benefits. **Back Page**

**POST OFFICE** chairman Sir Bryan Nicholson said the organisation had dropped its opposition to piecemeal privatisation. **Page 4**

**SPITALFIELDS** Development Group plans to raise a £315m bank loan facility - thought to be the largest such property financing in the UK - to help fund the redevelopment of the Spitalfields market. **Page 4**

**EUROPEAN** Community is investigating the alleged dumping of mechanical diggers in Britain by the Japanese construction equipment group Komatsu, following a complaint from EC manufacturers. **Page 2**

**CONSUMER PRICES** in the European Community rose 0.2 per cent last month over August, giving an annual inflation rate of 3.2 per cent, said the EC data office Eurostat. **Page 2**

**GUINNESS**, international drinks group, is very close to settling the legal action in which it is claiming £3.6m from stockbroker Rott Parne, the High Court heard. **Page 3**

**PROCTER & GAMBLE**, US consumer products group, reported a 30 per cent increase in first quarter net earnings to \$356m (\$215.8m) and said it was to market a new anti-baldness lotion developed by pharmaceuticals group Upjohn. **Page 19**

**ALCATEL**, French telecommunications group, is joining Nokia of Finland and AEG of West Germany in a consortium to manufacture mobile telephone equipment for the planned pan-European digital car radio market. **Page 19**

**JARDINE STRATEGIC** Holdings, Hong Kong-based investment group, has raised A\$1bn (£433m) for Bell Resources, the mining and energy arm of Robert Holmes & Court's business empire. **Page 8**

**SAUDI INTERNATIONAL** Bank, a London-based consortium bank, is cutting 31 of its 300 jobs and selling much of its problem Third World loans to shareholders to strengthen its financial position. **Page 4**

**BESTWOOD**, property and financial group chaired by Tony Cole, has built up a £47 per cent stake in Alden Home, anticipating a takeover of the financial services group. **Page 8**

**WESTERN Motor Holdings**, fast-growing motor dealer, paid £20.6m in cash and shares for Satra, a private company with the exclusive franchise to sell Soviet-made Lada cars in the UK and Ireland. **Page 8**

**LONDON WEEKEND** Television saw annual pre-tax profits jump 88 per cent to £23m, making it the third largest station in revenue terms after Thames and Central. **Page 8**

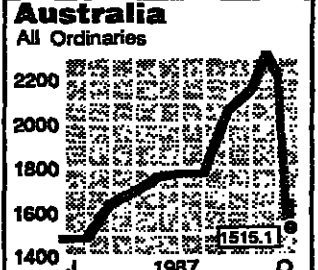
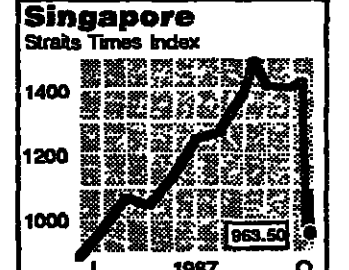
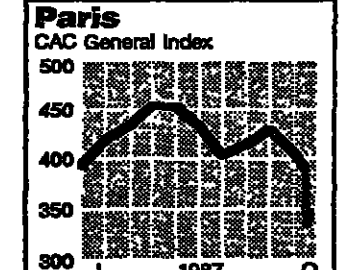
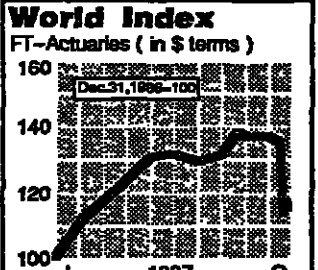
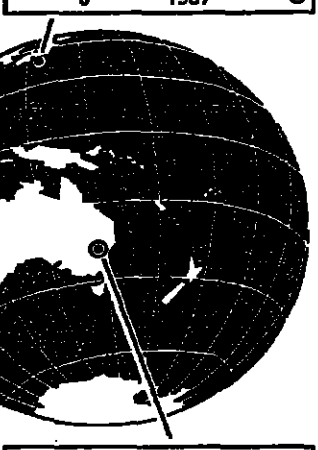
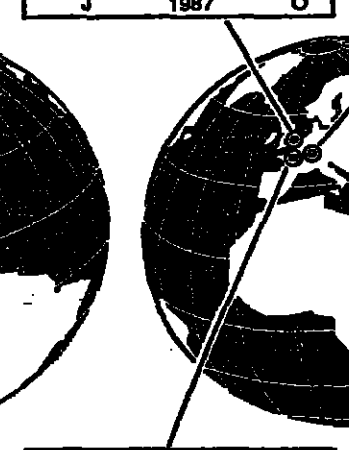
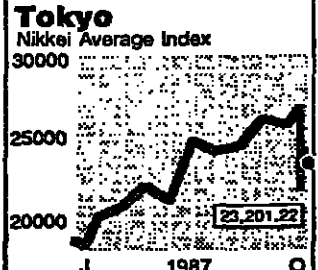
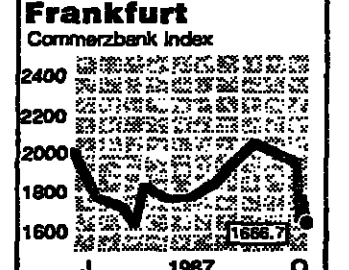
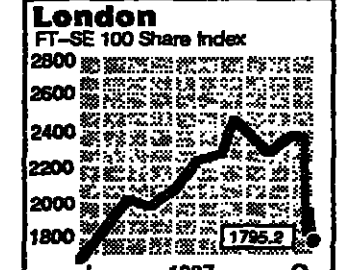
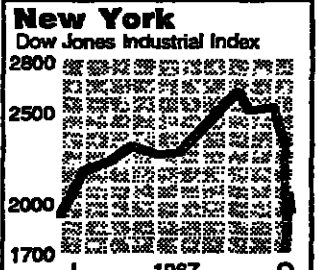
## Dollar plunges as equity markets stay vulnerable

BY JANET BUSH IN LONDON AND RODERICK ORAM IN NEW YORK

THE DOLLAR finally gave way to pressure yesterday after riding out a week of unprecedented turmoil in world financial markets, while equity markets remained highly vulnerable. In an ominous end to an extraordinary week, the US currency fell two yen and three pence in barely half an hour after rumours flashed through markets that the Group of Seven leading industrial nations would meet this weekend to lower their target for the US currency. This was hotly denied by both the UK and US Treasuries, but conditions on the foreign exchange market remained extremely nervous. Meanwhile, the London stock market drew scant comfort from the Bank of England's signal to cut base lending rates by half a percentage point to 9.5 per cent and from a sharp narrowing in Britain's trade deficit in September. In London, the FT-SE 100 index closed nearly 40 points lower, bringing the drop in the value of British shares over the week to 22 per cent. The continuing slump in London followed a sharp fall on the Tokyo stock exchange where the Nikkei index of leading stocks closed more than 1,200 points lower. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 0.33 points above Thursday's close at 1,395.8 as the sudden drop in the dollar helped dampen volatility and ended the week-long rally in US credit markets. Although a G7 meeting in the near future has not been entirely ruled out, there is considerable reluctance to hold one while the markets are so sensitive. The feeling is that a meeting with no substantive results to offer the markets could be counter-productive. Foreign exchange dealers in New York gave little credence to the rumour of a meeting, which appeared to start in Chicago's bond futures pits, but said it gave foreign exchange markets a chance to vent their pessimism about the dollar. The dollar had dropped sharply during European trading, closing in London at DM 1.7805 compared with Thursday's closing DM 1.8135 and at Y142.85 after Y144.60. In early afternoon trading in New York, the dollar was quoted even lower at DM 1.7775 and Y141.80. Equity markets were left un-

impressed by President Reagan's assurance on Thursday that he would personally attend a meeting with Congressional leaders on action to cut the US budget deficit. In a radio interview yesterday, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, defended Mr Reagan's commitment to cutting the deficit. He said the president's statement on Thursday signalled a shift in his position and that it was clear now that Mr Reagan was prepared to accept the possibility of increasing taxes as part of a deficit-cutting package. However, Mr Reagan later un-

Continued on **Back Page**



## Reagan will not surrender SDI as summit hangs in the balance

BY STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT REAGAN vowed yesterday that he would not give up the so-called Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) which has once again emerged as the major stumbling block to a US-Soviet arms control accord. However, in an interview only two hours after Mr George Shultz, his Secretary of State, had disclosed that he and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev had failed to reach agreement on a date for a Washington summit, Mr Reagan continued to express optimism about the prospects for an arms control deal. "Well, yes, I am disappointed," Mr Reagan said. "We had agreed in 1985 (at the Geneva summit) that there would be two more summits - one in Washington in 1986 and one in Moscow in 1987." The President, sitting in a high-backed chair in the Oval Office, his back to the empty fireplace, showed no sign of rancour or ill-will towards his Soviet negotiating partners. The past week has been one of the most difficult of Mr Reagan's presidency. He has had to endure not only the anguish of his wife Nancy undergoing an operation for breast cancer, but also a spectacular crash on Wall

Street and now Moscow's latest refusal to set a date for a summit which the president and his advisers had hoped would boost his political fortunes. Asked whether he felt that Moscow was taking advantage of his political difficulties, Mr Reagan said, smiling, "Very perceptive." He went on to point out that Moscow watches Congress very closely. However, the president refused to concede that the outcome in Moscow signalled a cooler period ahead for US-Soviet relations. "I have to believe that there is an effort being made on their part as well as ours to make the cold war a little warmer," he said, disclosing that Mr Gorbachev had sent flowers to the White House for Mrs Reagan. Mr Reagan said that he and Mr Gorbachev had agreed they had a great responsibility on the issue of whether there would be peace or war. "I have to believe that they want peace as much as we do. I think maybe they would like to win some advantages without war. I think they know from experience the high cost of modern war," Mr Reagan said. Asked how he explained the

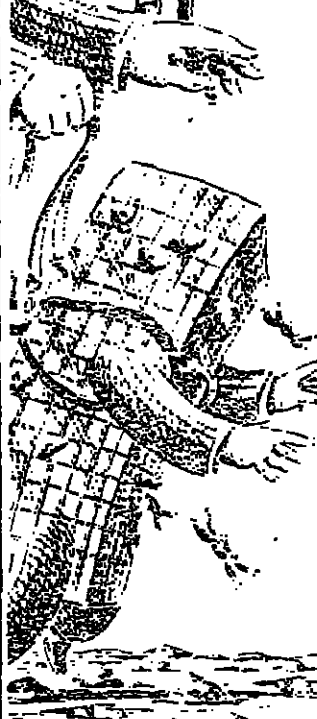
Wall Street crash, Mr Reagan said that in part it was a long overdue correction, reflecting the fact that speculation had over-empowered the market. However, he conceded that "confusion about the fact that we seem unable to get together, the Congress and ourselves on our budget deficit" had contributed to it. Pointing out that the market had stabilised - "the last I heard its about standing even," he said - the President insisted that "it's completely opposite from the Great Crash of 1929." He said that then, as the market collapsed, the Federal Reserve had tightened monetary policy: this time the Fed had immediately made the money supply more liquid. Mr Reagan also said that after the 1929 crash Congress had passed "a very protectionist tariff called the Smoot Hawley tariff." So in 1929 the US had "done all the wrong things (while) we have just gone the other way." Mr Reagan vowed that if the trade bill now being considered by Congress "comes down (to me) the way they are talking about it, I will veto it. I would never support protectionist legislation."

## Piggott jailed for three years

By Ralph Atkins

LESTER PIGGOTT, the former champion jockey, was sentenced to three years in prison by Ipswich Crown Court yesterday for income tax and VAT fraud involving a total of more than £3m. His solicitor said later that there would be no appeal. Piggott, 52, who won more than 5,000 races during a 37-year career, pleaded guilty to 10 charges brought by the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise. They covered £2.18m undisclosed income dating from 1973, related to earnings from bloodstock transactions, shares in top racing horses, and payments from owners. The income tax owed, excluding interest, amounted to £1.73m. A further £140,000 was owed to Customs and Excise. Mr Justice Farquharson, sentencing Piggott, said he accepted that more than £3m had been paid to the tax authorities by the former jockey to settle outstanding amounts and other commitments. However, Piggott had acted dishonestly and consistently failed to reveal fully his financial affairs to tax officials, or even to his professional advisers. Piggott retired as a jockey in 1985 to become a trainer. He has been partly deaf since birth, and throughout yesterday's hearing he was silent except to answer 'guilty' in a barely audible voice. Wearing a grey check jacket and a dark red tie, he showed no emotion as he was led away after sentencing. Piggott received three-year sentences on three of the charges and two years on the remainder, all to run concurrently. He was ordered to pay £24,000 costs and a fine of £25,000. His company, L.K. Piggott, which handles Piggott's training activities, was fined £100 on each of the five offences with which it was involved. Mr Anthony Hadden, QC, prosecuting, said Piggott deliberately and persistently failed to disclose to the Inland Revenue his income and the profits of his company. Tax inspectors investigated Piggott's financial affairs in 1970 and again between 1981 and 1983. After the second inquiry at least 17 undisclosed bank accounts, in various names, were discovered in London, Dublin, and Jersey. Mr Hadden gave details of a letter dated December 1981, sent by Mr Henry Cecil, the trainer, to owners whose horses were ridden by Piggott. It outlined arrangements for ex-

## WEEKEND FT



### A WEEK TO REMEMBER

In the wake of the worst stock market crash, Michael Proise takes a sombre look at the causes, effects and implications

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- World markets go wild
- A plain man's guide to the crash
- How it affects you

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Motorfair's wheels and deals

#### PAGE X

#### PROPERTY

Market catches up with developers

#### PAGE XII

#### BOOKS

London's richest library

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#### DIVERSIONS

Designs on interiors

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Coming soon: the best investment opportunity for years.

Turn to page III of Weekend for Garmore's commentary on the events of this week.

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## OVERSEAS NEWS

# EC dumping probe of UK Komatsu output

By William Dawkins in Brussels

THE EUROPEAN Commission yesterday unveiled an anti-dumping investigation of mechanical diggers made in Britain by Komatsu, the Japanese construction equipment group.

This is the second time the authority has used a controversial new trade law designed to stop importers circumventing anti-dumping levies by setting up low-cost assembly plants in the EC.

The Committee for European Construction Equipment Manufacturers, led by JCB, the British engineering company, had complained to Brussels.

The investigation is likely to provoke controversy between the UK public authorities, which helped Komatsu open a plant in the high-unemployment area of Birtley, near Newcastle, and the British companies that compete against Komatsu.

Grants from the UK Government, and Tyne and Wear County Council, covered 82m to 83m of the £12m initial costs of the plant, which started production a year ago.

Imported Komatsu excavators have been subject to 26.6 per

cent anti-dumping levies since mid-1985. In July, the Birtley plant announced plans to add 100 to the existing 270 workers.

The aim was to lift production from 60 units per month to 100 by the end of this year, then to 200 in 1988.

This means Komatsu has fallen foul of at least one of the clauses of the new anti-dumping legislation, in that it started or stepped up EC assembly after the opening of the original inquiry into dumping of assembled imports.

The committee claims that Komatsu has infringed the other key condition, in that more than 60 per cent by value of the components used at Birtley comes from Japan. Komatsu denies this, and maintains that its UK-made machinery has a 60 per cent local content, which it plans to raise to 90 per cent by 1991.

If the commission finds in favour of the complaint, in its judgment during the next two to three months, it can extend the duties already being levied on assembled imports of Komatsu excavators to cover the Birtley plant's output.

Reform will make the party more responsive to the masses, Robert Thomson reports

## China prepares for the next decade

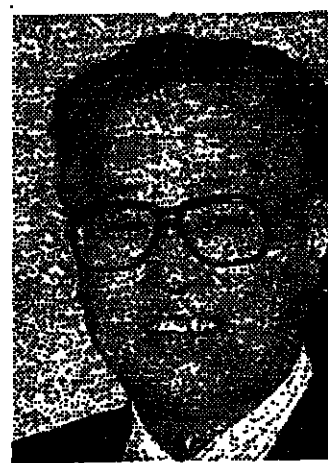
ILLEGAL hawkers have been cleared off the streets, the city's few prostitutes rounded up, and several police stations at almost every corner to prove to delegates to the 13th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party that law, order and cleanliness prevail in Peking.

The congress, beginning tomorrow, is intended to lead the party and the country into the next decade, through a rejuvenation of the leadership and the introduction of political reforms that will make the Party more responsive to the masses and better able to manage economic reform.

Those, at least, are the good intentions. The political reality is likely to be different. Even if numerous octogenarians and septuagenarians retire from the Politburo, it is clear they want an active retirement and will continue to influence party affairs. For instance, the President, Li Xiannian, has indicated his willingness to step down, but noted that he and his fellow-retirees must continue to play important roles.

Curious, the People's daily carried a front page article noting that Zhao Ziyang had reportedly attended a ceremony to lay the ashes of Marshal Ye Jianying to rest. The marshal, who died a year ago, held on to power well into his 80s and remains a symbol of both the Long March tradition and the enduring influence of the elderly in Chinese politics.

Zhao's action shows that the



Zhao Ziyang



Deng Xiaoping

new generation of leaders must pay due respect to revolutionary heroes to ensure their own survival.

It is expected that the elite five-member Politburo standing committee will be overhauled, with the possible replacement of Hu Yaobang, Li Xiannian, and Zhao Ziyang by other senior conservative economists who are unlikely to allow the congress to pass without lecturing fellow-party members on the dangers of reform.

Mr Chen can point to an increase in inflation as evidence that central control needs to be tightened and will mention the danger of social unrest - a deep fear of older leaders - if inflation is not checked. Price rises are the talk of Chinese cities, with citizens writing letters to newspapers and complaining privately that the standard of living has fallen in the past year.

It is unlikely that much of the political infighting will surface during the congress's public sessions. The difficult retirement decisions have already been made and the party's work report has been under discussion for some time.

While some debate will be encouraged for the cameras to give the impression of democracy, real power lies not with the majority of delegates but with a core of elderly leaders at the helm of the party.

CHINA'S official news agency has criticised a US decision to halt liberalisation of high-tech sales to China because of alleged Chinese arms sales to Iran, AP reports.

Xinhua News Agency said it "is not reasonable at all for the US to halt the review of relaxing controls of high-tech exports to China under the pretext of mounting tensions in the Gulf."

The response was China's first to a State Department announcement that it was freezing the types of high-tech items China can buy, apparently to show US displeasure over the alleged Chinese arms sales.

Had it been a year ago, reformers would have been able to capitalise on an economy generally under control and on a mood of optimism about reform.

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## Five Soviet generals killed in air crash

By Patrick Cockburn in Moscow

A HELICOPTER crash has killed five Soviet generals including the chief of staff of the Soviet forces in Hungary and the armed forces' deputy head of communications.

The military daily Red Star yesterday carried half a page of obituaries, saying they had died in an aviation disaster on October 19.

It did not give the cause of the crash or where it took place but the fact that deaths are prominently reported is a departure from previous practice.

The most senior of the officers to die was Col-Gen Vladimir Shutor, deputy chief of the armed forces policy directorate since 1978. The dead also included Gen-Gen Eren Perfiyev, chief of staff of the Soviet divisions in Hungary.

Greater openness about the deaths of the generals is in keeping with present government policy of limiting unnecessary secrecy where possible.

## Brazilian motor strike spreads

By Ivo Dumany in Rio de Janeiro

CAR PRODUCTION at Autolatina, the Brazil-based holding company that links Ford and Volkswagen, remained paralysed for third successive day yesterday as the dispute spread to the company's truck and tractor sections.

Workers are striking for a 65.9 per cent pay rise. The dispute is estimated to cost the company C\$1.5bn (£17m).

The long-running crisis at Autolatina is largely blamed by the company on government intervention over prices policy. Tax accounts for more than half a car's retail price.

Mr Wolfgang Sauer, Autolatina president, this month stopped production and locked out staff in protest against government refusal to authorise a price rise of more than 10.84 per cent. The company had argued for 30 per cent to restore profitability.

## S Korean poll restraint urged

By Maggie Flett in Seoul

MR KIM DAE JUNG, the South Korean opposition presidential candidate, yesterday issued a strong plea for restraint after violent incidents at election rallies in the past few days.

Police warned of a crackdown after two of the candidates, Mr Roh Tae Woo of the ruling Democratic Justice Party and Mr Kim Young Sam, suffered minor physical attacks while campaigning.

Mr Kim Dae Jung urged those causing the disruption to exercise self-control so as not to jeopardise the country's move towards democracy. He also asked the Government to refrain from any action which would be seen as unfair.

Kim Dae Jung has been the worst hit. On Wednesday in Kim Dae Jung's home town of Kwangju, women whose husbands were killed in the 1980 uprising against Mr Roh's government threw eggs at candidates and eggs at him. On Thursday at two rallies in the same area he faced demonstrators who fought with party aides.

## Turkey raises prices to cut budget deficit

TURKEY has raised prices on a range of goods, from imported cigarettes to cement, to help curb inflation and cut a ballooning budget deficit, Reuters reports from Ankara.

Energy charges are expected to be among those increased after the general election on November 12, which Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, is widely tipped to win.

## Indian army moves on rest of Jaffna

INDIAN troops pressed gingerly to extend their control over all of Jaffna City having captured most of the town of twisting streets after prolonged street to street fighting, writes Maryna de Silva in Colombo.

Meanwhile, Tamil guerrillas attacked an Indian army patrol near the eastern city of Batticaloa. Three Indian soldiers and three Tamil rebels were killed in an ambush at coastal village near Batticaloa, an Indian diplomat in Colombo said.

## Britain 'to join EMS next year'

By William Dawkins in Brussels

BRITAIN will become a full member of the European Monetary Union next year, a senior UK economist predicted yesterday.

Mr Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser at Lloyd's Bank, said the belief in the UK would enter the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS "sometime in 1988, possibly under pressure from the existing members to make up its mind once and for all."

He was addressing the opening session of the first World Ecu Symposium in Antwerp, an event organised by the Ecu Banking Association in an attempt to promote wider use of the European currency basket.

The 10-day symposium is taking place alongside the annual European Community tennis championships, the UK's nearest thing to Wimbledon - with prize money in Ecu, of course.

Mr Johnson said Britain had been a "shadow" member of the mechanism since the start of the year, intervening to keep sterling within the Dm2.90 to Dm3.10 band.

But, he added, "if the pound comes under pressure, the UK balance of payments deficit widens over the coming years, a unilateral commitment of this kind will not be credible in the foreign exchange markets."

His words found an echo with Mr Willy de Clercq, the European Commissioner for external trade, who admitted to "regret that the UK has not yet joined."

One potential disadvantage of membership for the UK, Mr Johnson said, was that the West German currency's dominance of the EMS had meant that the other members had perhaps unwittingly adjusted to low German growth rates.

## Italian pilots in row over Atr 42 crash

By John Wyles

A BITTER row broke out yesterday between Italian airline pilots and the manufacturers of the small commuter aircraft, the Atr 42, over the possible causes of last week's crash in northern Italy which cost the lives of 37 people.

Italian pilots were plainly alarmed yesterday by the statement issued by the Atr 42's manufacturers, Aerospaziale, of France and Italy's Aeritalia, suggesting that the pilot was to blame for the disaster on October 15.

Without revealing their evidence, the manufacturers said that the aircraft was flying below the recommended speed in what were "extremely severe" icy conditions. As a result the aircraft had gone into stall and "no suitable action was taken to correct it."

The statement apparently had the backing of France's civil aircraft registration agency which added that there was nothing to show that an Atr 42,

flown according to its flight manual, was not worthy of certification.

But yesterday spokesmen for one of Italy's two pilots associations, APPI, accused the manufacturers of rushing to conclusions.

Both pilots' associations are refusing to fly the Atr 42 until the causes of the accident are established. They are also suggesting that the fault may lie in the workings of the aircraft's anti-icing mechanisms - an assertion flatly denied by the makers who point to nearly 18 months' trouble-free operation in all weather conditions.

The contents of the crashed aircraft's black box have now been made known to the commission of inquiry set up by the Italian Ministry of Transport. The French and Italian manufacturers say they are confident this gives their design a clean bill of health.

However, Alitalia is keeping grounded the six Atr 42s operated by its subsidiary Al.

## Judge warns on Mafia

By Alan Friedman in Milan

JUDGE Giovanni Falcone, Italy's most determined anti-mafia magistrate, has issued a chilling plea for more help from the Italian state, warning that the revival of Mafia power in Sicily is now a fact of life.

Although the "mass-trial" of 468 alleged Mafia dons, killers and financial men is nearing completion after 20 months, Judge Falcone said yesterday: "Taking the view that bitterness that as far as the battle against the Mafia is concerned, things are returning to the old state of affairs."

The Palermo-based judge,

who is Italy's most heavily guarded investigating magistrate, has issued a chilling plea for more help from the Italian state, warning that the revival of Mafia power in Sicily is now a fact of life.

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The Palermo-based judge,

## Reformer to head Polish planning

By Christopher Bobbeld in Warsaw

MR EDZIESLAW SADOWSKI, a Deputy Premier who backs Poland's market-oriented economic reforms, has been named to head the new government's planning commission.

Mr Sadowski, 52, was named to head the commission, which will be responsible for the reform of the planning commission.

However, the new Government, of which Mr Sadowski remains prime minister, is retaining a conservative reputation in key posts.

Mr Sadowski's deputy, Mr Jerzy Buzek, is a former member of the Communist Party, but is now a reformer.

Mr Buzek, now managing director of the successful Polkowice TV tubes factory, who has led the attempt to make the electronics industry into a centralised concern, is to be named to head the reform of the planning commission.

His ministry has been formed out of four separate industrial ministries, as reformers have long been demanding.

The reform of the planning commission is a key part of the reform of the planning commission.

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## Kuwait 'puts missile batteries into path of Iran Silkways'

By Tony Walker in Kuwait and Richard Johns in London

KUWAIT is understood to be moving Hawk missile batteries to Falaika Island in the northern Gulf directly in the path of any Silkways missile launched by Iranian forces from the Fao Peninsula.

Iran is a thinly-veiled threat against Kuwait, warned of further strikes against Iraq's supporters in the Gulf conflict.

Iran had vowed to strike back hard in retaliation for Monday's raid by US warships on Iranian oil production platforms in the central Gulf.

Addressing Friday prayers in Tehran, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the powerful parliamentary speaker, said Iran was in possession of more effective "invisible shots" and threatened to use them against Iraq's supporters.

It is still by no means certain that the missiles responsible for the strikes against the products carrier Sea Island City on October 16 and Kuwait's Sea Island two days ago were Silkways.

Despite the direct hit, damage to the facility is said to be not as bad as feared. It had been caused by the missile's warhead, which is believed to have been launched by the Iranian leader.

Sheikh Salem al-Sabah, Kuwait's defence minister, said on Thursday that the government was considering appropriate measures to counter Iranian missiles.

Hitherto Kuwait's air defences have proved ineffective against the missiles generally believed to have been launched from the Fao Peninsula at the head of the Gulf about 95 km miles away.

The Gulf conflict appears to be jeopardising marine life just as much as human safety, writes Tim Dickinson in Brussels.

The US plan to send warships to find mines in the region attracted widespread publicity yesterday. But an even more alarming example of the danger has emerged in Basra.

Basra's Red Sea Ministry of Defence officials admitted yesterday that an officer on one of the country's two mine-sweepers in the Gulf has been killed after ordering a crew to fire on a school of dolphins. The incident was being described yesterday as an unfortunate piece of target practice.

The Defence Ministry said two dolphins were killed. It didn't say anything.

The Iranian navy also has Harpoon missiles bought from the US by the late Shah with 230 kg warhead and a range of 25 km.

Although Iran has not officially acknowledged that it launched a missile strike against the Kuwaiti oil loading terminal on Thursday, remarks yesterday by the Iranian leader in a broadcast buoyant mood in Tehran.

Sheikh Salem al-Sabah, Kuwait's defence minister, said on Thursday that the government was considering appropriate measures to counter Iranian missiles.

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offshore. In an attempt to intercept incoming Silkways which are relatively unsophisticated slow-flying projectiles based on a Soviet design.

Kuwait is reported to be considering whether to ask its western friends for assistance to improve its air defence capabilities. Local sensitivities about becoming too obviously reliant on the US are complicating the issue.

Meanwhile, a representative of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) said there would be little or no interruption to oil supplies to Kuwaiti customers, following Thursday's attack on the Sea Island terminal.

Captain Tim Stafford, manager of Fleet Development in KOTC, said Kuwait was using alternative loading facilities offshore. It was also re-opening a "single point mooring buoy" near the Sea Island terminal which is about 10 miles offshore.

The loading buoy has not been used since the early 1980s and will take about a week to bring back into commission. When it is functioning, it will restore Kuwait's export capacity to levels prevailing before Thursday's missile strike.

It is still unclear when the Sea Island terminal itself will be re-opened. Experts are still assessing the extent of damage to the installation's control room.

A Kuwaiti official has denied that he would be forced to declare force majeure on some of its oil contracts. He said the emirate would be able to meet its commitments.

Kuwait's OPEC production quota is about 890,000 barrels a day, has reportedly been exporting up to 2m b/d in an effort to boost its stockpile held outside the Gulf in storage tankers moored off the United Arab Emirates.

Problems causing starvation remain, reports Victor Mallet, recently in Mekele

## Ethiopia awaits return of the famine

YEMANE BERGE, a 37-year-old peasant farmer in Ethiopia's Tigre Province, is not a happy man.

In the evening sunlight outside the provincial capital, Mekele, he and his friends are threshing by hand a miserable crop of barley from his two hectares. It is becoming obvious that his tiny mound of grain is not going to get any bigger.

"My choice," he says, "is to wait for the government to help or to go somewhere else to find food." He has nine children and five other dependent relatives to feed, but the harvest is of poor quality and the amount scarcely makes up for the seed he has sown.

The effects of this year's drought in Ethiopia are clearly visible from the air. The green hills around Addis Ababa give way to parched, brown lands as you fly north. Tigre is thought to have suffered 70 per cent crop losses, while some parts of Eritrea to the north will harvest nothing at all.

Three years ago, during the famine which killed hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians, Mekele was one of the towns where the hungry came to get help or to die. The tents and shelters have gone now, but the problems which caused the famine remain. Aid workers and Ethiopian officials in Mekele are preparing once more for a huge relief effort.

"If the grain comes on time to our region, the disaster will be less and nobody will die," says Mr Habtu Tsegwold, who heads the Mekele office of the govern-

ment's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. "In 1984-85, the people of the world didn't respond quickly and we didn't have any reserves food."

Mr Habtu estimates that about 1.5m of Tigre's 2.6m people will need help in 1988, much the same number as in 1985.

But the famine is becoming eroded. It suffers from soil erosion, he says, expressing the hope that the controversial resettlement programme to move peasants onto better land further south, suspended in 1985, will resume soon. "People can't live here with such difficult problems year after year."

Outside Mekele, hundreds of trees have been planted in an attempt to replace the area's lost woodlands.

"Food-for-work" programmes are under way and swarms of peasants are scurrying to a fro with wheelbarrows to build one of a series of earth dams for watering cattle and for irrigation.

Drought and soil exhaustion are not the only difficulties. It is virtually impossible for government officials to work outside Tigre's main towns because of a guerrilla war waged by some 5,000 fighters of the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) since the 1970s. The government and the rebels both might involve difficulties over the next two or three years) and say whether they want it democratised.



Mekele

cars roar past camels and long-horn cattle ambulating along the dusty roads.

Patients at the town hospital are sometimes removed from their beds to make way for wounded soldiers.

Basic supplies come to Mekele by convoy. Rebels attacked one recently on the road to Asmara in Eritrea and destroyed 15 trucks. In Mekele's hotel, where the waiters wear bowties and grubby white tuxedos, such matters are not discussed even in whispers for fear of government informers.

But visitors can hardly fail to notice that the people who have walked for hours, sometimes days, from their villages to collect food in Mekele, are mostly the old, the women and the children. Many young men are either fighting for the rebels or evading military conscription.

In February 1988, the TPLF

briefly entered Mekele and stormed the main prison, releasing hundreds of detainees. Their subsequent evidence about torture proved to be useful ammunition for those who accuse the Ethiopian government of human rights abuses.

Meanwhile, the aid workers in Mekele, including an ICRC team and a pair of Italian Catholic priests, are preparing to distribute greatly increased quantities of food aid over the next year.

Above all, they want to avoid the huge camps and shelters around the main towns which characterised the last famine. Diseases spread more easily, relief operations are more expensive and people become more dependent on aid than ever.

"We don't want any more of these awful camps," says Mrs Claire Fearns of the ICRC in Mekele. "We don't want people to leave their homes. That is very important."

The idea is to allow the needy to come to a collection point, pick up a month's supply of food, and return home confident they will be able to obtain more food when supplies run out.

Early warnings show that food is becoming scarce, and there are signs that malnutrition is increasing among those who seek medical help in Mekele. ICRC representatives who fly into Tigre towns on market days to monitor the situation are reporting higher grain prices and lower cattle prices, indicating a shortage of grain and a trend towards selling cattle to buy food.

Aid dependency remains a real danger. Mr Habtu accuses some peasants of forgetting already the famine of three years ago and splashing out with last year's harvest on marriages and other festivities. "They don't store, they don't have the culture, that's our problem," he says. "They know that if the drought is going to affect them, the government will help them."

A balance obviously has to be struck. "If we bring food too early, we ruin the market," says Mrs Fearns. "If we bring food too late, then we have skeletons."

If the West donates enough food to keep Ethiopia from starving in 1988, the main obstacles facing the relief operation are likely to be logistical. Up to 100,000 tonnes of food a month will have to be shipped to the Red Sea ports before being taken by lorry to distribution points around the country.

A recent study by donor organisations has concluded that the ports of Assab and Massawa are in a worse condition than during the last famine and that 231m is required to rehabilitate Ethiopia's transport systems.

The report says there is a shortage of 300 trucks in the north and recommends the purchase of 100 new trucks together with the transfer of 200 from the south. The government has simply asked for 800 new trucks.

The donor says Brother Cesare Bullo, head of the Catholic secretariat in Mekele, "are not too much interested in development. If you ask for lorries and tractors it's very difficult to get any. Ask for relief food and you get it right away. Maybe there is a surplus."

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## UK NEWS

## Post Office alters attitude to sale

BY DAVID THOMAS

THE POST Office has dropped its opposition to piecemeal privatisation, Sir Bryan Nicholson, the new chairman, disclosed yesterday.

The Post Office said last year that it should be privatised either as a whole or not at all. However, Sir Bryan, speaking on his first day in office, described this position as out of date.

He was referring to a statement by the Prime Minister ruling out the privatisation of the Royal Mail, but not that of the rest of the Post Office's activities, mainly its counter operations and National Giro-bank subsidiary.

The Post Office had argued that all its activities were interdependent. However, Sir Bryan said it would be possible to separate the counters and Giro-bank from the letters and parcels business.

He stressed that he had received no firm indication that ministers were planning the

privatisation of counters or Giro-bank, although he believed the Department of Trade and Industry had been studying the implications of the Prime Minister's statement.

He warned that the Government would be almost certain to remove the Post Office's monopoly if industrial action disrupted the mail. The Union of Communication Workers, the main postal union, yesterday began an industrial action ballot over a claim for a shorter working week.

The Post Office is prepared to resume negotiations with the union at any time and has not ruled out talks while the ballot is taking place.

Sir Bryan, describing the letter monopoly as a privilege not a right, said the Government might remove the monopoly in London if unofficial disputes continued to disrupt mail in parts of the capital.

Sir Bryan, who will be paid a performance bonus of up to 18

per cent of his undisclosed basic salary, said that providing an excellent service was his key aim. He mentioned reliability of first class letter delivery and reducing counter queues as areas of particular concern.

He has ordered an urgent review of whether the Post Office can measure delivery performance from time of posting to time of delivery, rather than from arrival in the sorting office to arrival in the delivery office, which is the present system.

Sir Bryan said he was keen for the Post Office to offer new services. He mentioned electronic mail and a service mid-way between ordinary letters and the premium Datapost service as possibilities.

He disclosed that the Government was in the early stages of reviewing whether to allow the Post Office to offer more counter services, which could be done by changing the articles of association of the counters business.



Sir Bryan Nicholson: monopoly a privilege

## Compact disc maker cuts jobs

By David Thomas

NIMBUS, the UK's largest compact disc maker, is cutting its workforce by more than a quarter in a drive to make itself more efficient in the face of intensifying competition.

The company is to shed 140 jobs at its headquarters in Monmouth, Gwent, South Wales by closing its manufacturing operations there and concentrating production at its other plants in Cwmbran, Gwent, and Virginia, US.

Nimbus shed 100 workers earlier this year.

## BT tackles vandalism with cashless callboxes

BY TERRY DODSWORTH, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PLESSEY, the telecommunications group, is to supply British Telecom with a cashless public telephone system aimed at reducing callbox vandalism.

The £7m contract was announced yesterday with a £10m deal to supply BT with 10,000 public payphones and parts for the modernisation of the public network. BT has ordered more than 150,000 of Plessey's modern callbox units.

The cashless system will al-

low people to make calls from public payphones by using a personal account number, which they can feed into the system automatically.

Yesterday's agreements will help BT combat recent heavy criticism of the quality of its payphone service.

The company is trying to modernise the service as quickly as possible, while reducing vandalism of the call boxes.

## Saudi bank to shed 10% of staff

BY ALEXANDER NICOL

SAUDI INTERNATIONAL Bank, a consortium bank based in London, announced last night that it was making 10 per cent of its employees redundant.

The bank is selling a substantial part of its problem Third World loans to its shareholders.

The 31 employees leaving the bank are all in London and are spread across its operations.

Saudi said that it was not withdrawing from any of the markets in which it operates. The bank is half owned by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, with 20 per cent owned by the US and the remainder spread between two Saudi and five other banks. It services Saudi trade but is also a participant in its own right in international financial markets.

The transfer of the loans underlines the problems faced by consortium banks which have a relatively high proportion of their assets concentrated in Third World countries which have faced debt problems for the past five years.

The bank did not disclose the size of the portfolio which it was transferring to shareholders, but said the loans were to countries which have rescheduled debts and that they would be transferred in proportion to individual shareholders' stakes. The transfer price will be set later this year.

The bank said the transfer would strengthen its financial position and considerably reduce its exposure to troubled debtors. It has £181m of capital representing 15 per cent of the bank's assets, but earlier in the year by a £27.5m increase by shareholders.

## Spitalfields developers seek £315m bank loan

By Andrew Taylor

PLANS to raise a £315m bank facility to help fund the redevelopment of London's historic Spitalfields market were announced yesterday by the Spitalfields Development Group.

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, which together with Goldman Sachs, the securities house, is seeking to arrange the bank facility, believed it would be the largest property financing of its kind in the UK.

Mr Patrick de Pelet, Kleinwort's corporate finance director, said a number of leading international banks had been approached to underwrite and lead manage the £315m facility.

Test soundings had been encouraging.

The Spitalfields Development Group represents a partnership between property developers London and Edinburgh Trust, Balfour Beatty Developments and County District Properties.

Spitalfields presents one of Europe's biggest inner-city development sites. The group proposes to build 752,000 sq ft of offices in three large blocks and three smaller buildings.

There are also plans for 124,000 sq ft of shopping and 77,000 sq ft of homes, including more than 100 homes for housing associations. Open space, a large public building and accommodation for small businesses are also planned.

The scheme, approved this week by the City Corporation, will take up to 10 years. Because the market was established by Royal Charter, a private bill will have to be approved by Parliament before the scheme can go ahead.

Spitalfields Development Group plans to rehouse the market at Temple Mills, Waltham Forest, in north-east London. The new facilities must be completed before redevelopment of Spitalfields, on the eastern fringe of the City, can get under way, probably in about two years.

## No referral for MFI buyout

THE ACQUISITION by Maxira, a management buyout vehicle, of the MFI furniture group and its principal supplier, is not to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young has decided.

MFI is being bought from Asda-MFI, the retailing group, and Hygena from its co-founder, Mr Malcolm Healey.

## Buyers drive motor industry to improve its quality of service

John Griffiths on schemes to persuade dealers to meet drivers' demands

BMW's wholly-owned UK importer is still not satisfied with service to customers and is to launch an incentive scheme for its 150-strong dealer network early next year, says Managing Director Mr Paul Layzell.

However, BMW executives say the initiative is not being taken because the company has any particular customer-satisfaction problems relative to other franchises.

Rather, the move is a recognition of rising customer expectations, according to Mr Tom Purves, sales director.

Awareness of higher expectations is percolating through the retail motor industry at an increasing rate. It is fuelled by more intense competition and sharply reduced willingness among motorists, particularly business users, to spend time at dealerships because of service or repairs.

The industry has also been prodded by reports from consumer groups and trading standards officers which remain severely critical of some aspects of the motor trade.

BMW customers are to be questioned quarterly about their satisfaction with service.

Dealers will receive assistance from BMW (GB) to prepare the questionnaires, which will be accompanied by a list of unspecified amounts, according to customer ratings of their performance.

Up to half of each dealer's customers will be asked to complete a questionnaire rating the dealer's performance on 36 aspects of customer satisfaction, and rank their importance.

Bonuses would start above a 70 per cent satisfaction level at 70 per cent, and rise to 80 per cent at 80 per cent, and 90 per cent at 90 per cent, though precise thresholds would vary.

As part of the satisfaction drive, BMW is to cut more parts prices. In August BMW cut the price of some key parts by between 10 per cent and 45 per cent to counteract what it admits is a fairly widespread

impression that its cars are expensive to service and maintain. The cut was intended to help dealers sell more used cars and to keep customers coming back to franchised BMW dealers for service.

Broadly similar action has been taken by Volvo Concessionaires, the Lex Service group-owned Volvo importer. It recently cut parts prices by an average of 20 per cent on Dutch-built models and 6 per cent on those from Sweden. Last year Volvo Concessionaires launched "lifetime care", which gives virtually a lifetime warranty against defects in its cars as long as they are serviced by a franchised Volvo dealer.

It has removed the franchise from 68 dealers, about a third of whom, according to chief executive Mr Philip Fayze, had "attitudinal problems".

BMW and Volvo have enjoyed sales which have grown far greater, proportionately, than the size of the dealer network. Higher levels of investment and improved service standards from individual dealers are seen as a return for the increased throughput per dealer.

Service upgrading is not restricted to executive car-oriented franchises. Ford has been offering vehicle "lifetime" guarantees on repairs apart from normal wear-and-tear maintenance, for some time and was a pioneer of optional extended warranties up to the end of the third year of a vehicle's life.

Mr Loric Capersin, managing director of Renault (UK), points to a cut of one-third in its dealer network as an illustration of his

company's shift in emphasis. "Our policy has been to cut the network size and improve its quality", he says. "Our approach used to be too volume-oriented. Now we want higher dealer standards, and to change our whole image to reflect quality of service."

Mr Capersin has explored most of the optional avenues for achieving this, including the possibility of offering a standard, the "no cost" three-year warranties already given by companies such as Fiat Car Company and Lancia UK, the Heron group-owned Italian car importer.

The idea was considered potentially too costly and not pursued. Instead, about 30 per cent of Renault customers take up "Renault Care" extended warranties as an option.

Like Volvo, he feels dealer responsiveness to the changing service climate is at least as critical as the "nuts and bolts" of the services actually offered. And while he insists "there will be no purge" of Renault UK's already streamlined network, he says, "we still have to change some weak dealers - some will decide to go themselves; some we will have to replace."

It is not just a UK problem. Says Mr Capersin, who has held executive posts for Renault in several Continental markets: "The image of the motor trade is bad. The motor trade is a factor in the need to act together to improve it."

In the case of BMW at least, and in spite of Mr Layzell's discontent with customer satisfaction, sales remain buoyant. He forecasts BMW will set a record for the seventh year in a row at 37,000 units, compared with 12,000 in 1980.

This is in spite of deteriorating exchange rates which have helped push prices up an average of 9.8 per cent so far this year, and 16 per cent in 1986.

## Tunnel 'threatens 20,000 ferry jobs'

BY KEVIN BROWN AND ANDREW TAYLOR

UP TO 20,000 seamen and port workers may have to lose their jobs if the ferry industry is to compete effectively with the Channel Tunnel, Mr James Sherwood, chairman of Sealink UK, said yesterday.

His forecast followed the publication of a detailed attack on Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel consortium, by the Flexlink grouping of ports and ferry companies.

Eurotunnel has to raise £750m in a share offer next month if the tunnel project is to go ahead.

Mr Sherwood said Sealink and P&O European Ferries - the two leading Channel ferry operators - could wreck Eurotunnel's traffic and revenue costs by cutting fares on the key Dover-Calais route by 40 per cent. However, this would require a rationalisation of services, in

which up to 20 ships might have to be withdrawn, mostly on "marginal" routes from the smaller Channel ports.

The restructuring would leave six "jumbo" ferries operating a no-bookings shuttle between Dover and Calais at 30-minute intervals.

This concept has been discussed in initial talks between Mr Sherwood and Sir James Sterling, chairman of P&O, but permission from the Office of Fair Trading is required before further talks can take place.

The companies are expected to wait for the result of the Eurotunnel share offer before seeking permission to work out details of the proposal.

Mr Sherwood said many Channel ferries were 40 per cent overmanned. The seamen's trade unions would be asked to agree to a gradual reduction in

manning over the next seven years, some of which could take place through voluntary redundancies and early retirement.

The National Union of Seamen (NUS) represents more than 8,000 cross-Channel crew, said it was "provocative" of Mr Sherwood to make a public estimate of the scale of redundancies which might be required.

The union said it would fight to keep as many ships as possible on the Channel routes. However, it is expected to adopt a pragmatic approach to redundancies in view of the threat to ferry services from the tunnel.

Mr Jonathan Sloggett, managing director of Dover Harbour Board and chairman of Flexlink, said the promoters of the tunnel would probably default on £50m of loans and standby credits if the project went ahead.

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

AIR CANADA

## Young unemployed to lose benefits

BY ALAN PRICE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday went ahead with its manifesto undertaking to remove state benefits from unemployed young people as part of a wider tightening-up of social security provisions.

General entitlement to income support is withdrawn from 16 and 17-year-olds under the Social Security Bill published yesterday. The move is accompanied by the guarantee of a Youth Training Scheme place for all those under 18 who are not in full-time education or conventional employment.

Ministers stressed yesterday that YTS allowances are higher than the benefit payments which young people have until

now been able to claim. Mr Norman Fowler, Employment Secretary, said the only option being taken away from young people was that of turning down training place and living on benefit.

However, opponents of the proposal see it as a step towards compelling unemployed people to accept government schemes. Similar criticism has been levelled at the Job Training Scheme for adults, on which trainees receive only the equivalent of benefit payments.

The move was condemned yesterday by a number of groups, including the National Union of Students and the Low Pay Unit. Mr Chris Pond, the

unit's director, said it would turn young people into a "cohort army of cheap labour".

The change will take effect next September and the Government will extend child benefit for under 15-year-olds - which currently ends when they leave school - for up to four months while they are looking for jobs or YTS places.

The Bill also strengthens the contribution conditions for claiming unemployment and sickness benefits. National Insurance contributions will in future have to have been paid or credited over both of the last two tax years, instead of the present one year.

It is estimated that this provi-

## Heffer talks of new left wing party

By Michael Cassell, Political Correspondent

THE POSSIBILITY of establishing a new socialist party to unite the radical left and pursue working class-oriented policies should not be ruled out, Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool Walton, said yesterday.

Mr Heffer, whose remarks were contained in a statement to be distributed to delegates attending this weekend's socialist conference in Chesterfield, said the time had not yet come to establish the new party. He said it might never be necessary, as long as the trade unions remained affiliated to Labour.

Mr Heffer charged the Labour leadership with abandoning socialist policies and taking Labour "down the path of the red rose of compromise rather than the red flag of socialism". The present tactics, he said, would deprive Labour of victory and increase despair and division.

He called on the Left to organise itself with the Campaign group of MPs becoming the parliamentary umbrella organisation for socialist groups.

More than 1,500 delegates are expected to attend the conference, which is being largely ignored by a Labour party leadership. Mr Roy Hattersley, the party's deputy leader, said the meeting had only "a vicarious connection" with the party.

## Labour critical of ANC plot statement

BY IVOR OWEN

LABOUR leaders are to make a new bid to force Mrs Thatcher into making a Commons statement next week on allegations that security services were involved in a plot to kidnap members of the National Congress in London.

Explanations offered in the Commons yesterday by Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, for the abandonment of the prosecution against three men accused of being involved in a kidnap conspiracy were greeted with open scepticism on the Opposition benches.

While Government supporters laughed and cheered at Sir Patrick's jocular apology for having "shot their fox", Labour critics protested that this carefully phrased statement had not ruled out the involvement of the security services in an elaborate undercover operation.

Mr John Morris, shadow Attorney General, noted that Sir Patrick had chosen his words

"extremely carefully" and presented for an examination by the Security Commission of all the "unanswered questions".

Sir Patrick, who took the unusual step of making a statement from the front bench, said the decision to drop the prosecution had been taken by the staff of the Director of Public Prosecutions following advice by leading counsel.

He had formed the view that, although the evidence against the accused was sufficient to warrant them being arrested and charged, it was not likely to have been sufficient to secure conviction at trial.

While information concerning the case had been referred by the DPP's staff to his (the Attorney General's) office in July, no request for a direction had been made and none was given.

This disclosure brought cries of "Ah" from Labour MPs but Sir Patrick brushed aside their in-

ferences of sinister implications and took some credit for having brought "some excitement" to the House late on a Friday afternoon.

Mr John Fraser, another Labour front bench, demanded an assurance that none of the defendants were in any way either working for or had been connected with the security services.

Sir Patrick replied: "I have made inquiries, naturally, and I am given to understand that there is no connection and has been no connection whatsoever."

Sir Patrick told Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham South, that certain documents in the case had been referred by the personal decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions, to the security services on the basis that what purported to be governmental documents were not genuine.

## British Coal transfers mine to UDM-dominated area

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

BRITISH COAL yesterday delivered a resounding challenge to the National Union of Mineworkers by transferring management of the new Asfordby mine in Leicestershire to its Nottinghamshire area, in which the rival Union of Democratic Mineworkers holds sway.

The UDM is expected to accept a condition that it should produce six days a week, a suggestion resisted by the NUM.

Asfordby, which will employ 1,400 when it opens in the early 1990s, has until now been managed as part of the Central area, which encompasses Leicestershire, Warwickshire and south Derbyshire.

British Coal said Asfordby's workforce would be recruited principally from the Leicestershire, south Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire coalfields.

Mr Jack Jones, NUM Leicestershire area secretary, said this contradicted assurances that the mine was intended to replace large job losses.

Talks on six-day working at Asfordby are expected to open soon with the UDM. Their suc-

cessful outcome would make Asfordby the first big new colliery to break with the principle of five-day production.

Announcing the new Asfordby arrangement, British Coal said the nearest colliery to it was at Colgrave, Nottinghamshire, and preparatory work on Asfordby was done by Nottinghamshire-based personnel.

Mr Jones said the NUM was seriously concerned about improving the nation's health, would provide more resources to remedy the deplorable housing and other conditions

caused by the first big new colliery to break with the principle of five-day production.

Announcing the new Asfordby arrangement, British Coal said the nearest colliery to it was at Colgrave, Nottinghamshire, and preparatory work on Asfordby was done by Nottinghamshire-based personnel.



**BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR EDITOR**

## PART ONE

The Department of Employment estimates that the likely cost of this from unions reclaiming ballot expenses allowed under existing labour law will be £1.5m in 1988-89 and £1.7m in each of the following two years.

**Closed Shop.** Unions will not be able to take lawful industrial action in relation to the closed shop, and dismissal of an employee for non-membership of a trade union will in all cases be unfair dismissal.

**Norman Fowler, Employment Secretary**

Other reasons include alleging the member's union or one

**PART TWO**

**By John Gapper, Labour Staff**

## drive is urged

He said that coping with the pressures would require a massive investment by companies in training and retraining. While government had the responsibility for ensuring the education system supplied in-

## UNNEL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

ship plans, where they were compatible with the pay security for workers and were accompanied by greater worker involvement in company decision making.

Mr Haigh said the unions and electricians' union's executive councillor for South Wales, said management reluctance to change was the main obstacle to the growth of single-union, strike-free agreements.

Mr Bevan, who has played a

Earlier yesterday Mr. Laird told BBC radio: "What will po-

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## BY PHILIP BASSETT

## EL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

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**HARRO GATE  
CONFERENCE**

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Mr Haigh said the unions and electricians' union's executive councillor for South Wales, said management reluctance to change was the main obstacle to the growth of single-union, strike-free agreements.

Mr Bevan, who has played a

It would not be a massive increase in strike-free agreements. Although his union was making steady progress, employers were resting on their laurels at a time of management strength. Mr John Edmonds, general

... were presented yesterday at the conference in Harrogate, suggests that the act's balloting requirements have yet to gain widespread acceptance on the shop floor.

returned an average vote of 90 per cent in favour of retaining union membership agreements.

**And individual**

Pope said about 30 of his association's member companies had held such ballots and had returned an average vote of 90 per cent in favour of retaining union membership agreements.

In turn, this would mean companies having to adopt more in-

per cent of those in the *Irish* own magazine and 41 per cent of those in a quality Sunday newspaper.

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## PART THREE

The Bill provides for all civil servants to be covered by existing contracts of employment. Civil servants have never had formal employment contracts, since they are technically servants of the Crown, but a High Court decision in June ruled that there were no contracts at all.

In order to be able to apply to its own employees its own labour legislation, the Bill says that civil servants' terms of service do constitute a contract for the purposes of the law relating to employment and for a number of clauses in this new bill in particular.

**Employment Bill 1987. SO, £5.30.**

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## FINANCIAL TIMES

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Saturday October 24 1987

## Deciphering the message

AN EARTHQUAKE permanently changes the landscape. So it is likely to prove that the last week's events in the stock markets.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer appears to agree with his Keynesian critics that the main problem is the irresponsibility of the financial markets. But the truth is more complex. It is governments that are at the root of the problem, while the stock markets in the last week, the bond market in the last few months and the foreign exchange markets in recent years have merely been carrying the message.

Unfortunately, markets are not very efficient messengers. They tend to hysteria and, in any case, deliver their message at unpredictable and inconvenient times. Nonetheless, there is a message, its essence being concern about the creditworthiness of the government of the world's most important country. The ratio of US federal debt to GNP has risen from 33 to 52 per cent since 1980. In the present fiscal year, the federal deficit is expected to fall to about \$155 bn, a drop of \$66 bn from the previous year, but the expectation is that it will rise again thereafter.

At the same time, the expected deficit of \$155 bn is still about 3 1/2 per cent of GNP and the ratio of debt to GNP is rising even when the US economy is not far from a cyclical peak. Another recession, especially if it is induced by higher rates of interest, would lead to further sharp rises in the extent of US government indebtedness.

**Painfully slow**  
The lesson of the period since the Louvre Accord in February appears to be that attempts to manage exchange rates in the absence of the required changes in the economic fundamentals have merely shifted instability in other, probably more damaging, directions.

The immediate problem is that the current account adjustment of the US has been painfully slow. Partly as a result, the burden of financing the US deficit fell on foreign central banks. This, in turn, awakened fears that interest rates would have to rise. In fact, bond rates started to rise worldwide in July, while the instability of the US external deficit became obvious.

Furthermore, one of the implications of fixed exchange rates is that the shorter rates of interest tend to converge. It is probably for this reason that monetary authorities in Japan and West Germany have found themselves following domestic short rates of interest upwards.

The rising rates of interest coincided through most of 1987 with declining returns on investments in equity as stock markets continued to soar. This combination became progressively

more infeasible as further rises in rates of interest seemed more likely. It is thus that the stock markets became the last and most urgent of the trio of messengers, producing in a week all the instability that had been suppressed on the foreign exchange markets for seven months, in the process wiping out about \$1 trillion in private wealth worldwide.

**First stage**  
However unwelcome, the warning must be heeded. The required short term action to calm the markets has been taken by all the central banks. But this is just the first stage.

Under plausible assumptions about long term growth and rates of interest, the US fiscal deficit at the end of a long expansion, the current deficit should certainly be much smaller than that.

At the same time, some analysts suggest that the decline in wealth may itself reduce household demand in the US by 3 per cent. This could well prove an exaggeration, since it is difficult to believe that much of the last year's increase in paper values as regarded as permanent. Nevertheless, too large a reduction in the deficit now could prove damaging. What can be done, therefore, is to pass into law a pre-announced and phased programme of tax increases that will eliminate the structural deficit over perhaps three years.

Some deflation in the US is unavoidable, but that is the unhappy consequence of fiscal irresponsibility during the peak of a cycle. In any case, deflationary effects in the US would be offset by further dollar depreciation, which looks necessary, even if not inevitable. Furthermore, the required depreciation should be sufficiently large to encourage substantial private capital inflow even without large interest rate differentials between the US and the surplus countries.

The change in US fiscal policy and the value of the dollar would present the surplus countries with a painful *fait accompli*. It would be in their interest to expand demand as the impulse of the US external deficit disappears, especially given the market decline. Any justification for caution has surely disappeared. International economic stability is impossible if leading nations pursue policies that are clearly unsustainable. The lesson of the week's events is not that markets are irresponsible, but that those who need the most regulation are, unfortunately, the governments of some of the major countries.

YESTERDAY the world's leading economic policymakers were searching desperately for the silver lining. As stock markets continued to gyrate wildly it was difficult to find.

Even if the soothing words in this week's flurry of official statements from Washington, Tokyo, London and Frankfurt eventually succeed in damping the fires, the economic dilemmas which kindled the flames will remain as acute as ever. The huge trade imbalances between the US, Japan and West Germany have not gone away. The dollar may have escaped relatively unscathed this week, but yesterday's fall was a reminder that doubts remain about its stability when the US is running \$18bn (\$3.7bn)-a-month trade deficits.

Prospects for world economic growth, hardly spectacular even before this week's dramas, have deteriorated significantly as the result of the shock delivered to consumer and investor confidence. As President Ronald Reagan acknowledged on Thursday, there is a real danger that the fear of recession which contributed to the crash in equities could become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The basis of the soothing words is that the collapse in equity prices may simply signal a long overdue shake-out of speculative froth. Prices in most centres are still higher than a year ago. As commentators dusted off their economics textbooks to find parallels with 1929, the US Federal Reserve's decision to pump money into the financial markets indicated that it had learnt at least one of the lessons of that great slump. The panic would not be exacerbated by an officially imposed monetary squeeze. Interest rates, particularly for long-term borrowing, fell sharply throughout the week. Britain ratified the trend with yesterday's half point cut in base rates.

Mr Reagan's apparent willingness to consider tax increases to reduce the US budget deficit and West Germany's more flexible approach to interest rate policy were cited as evidence that policymakers were not ignoring the more fundamental economic message. But if the speed of this week's crash can be blamed partly on computer-generated trading, the markets have demonstrated that they no longer have the patience which governments have demanded of them.

Official declarations that it will take years, not months, to unwind the twin US budget and trade deficits and to cut the Japanese and West German external surpluses have begun to be seen as complacent rather than realistic - particularly when the fragility of international co-operation is exposed by public slanging matches between Washington and Bonn. Bland statements of optimism and good intent like that issued after last month's meeting of the Group of Seven nations no longer seem enough. Plans to overhaul the international exchange rate system or to give gold a new role in global monetary policy begin to look peripheral.

The most obviously damaging result of 20 per cent to 30 per cent falls in the leading stock markets will be on economic growth. Though the impact will vary from country to country, consumers throughout the industrialised world have seen a substantial, almost instant, reduction in their wealth. The recession is likely to be a parallel reduction in consumer spending as individuals adjust

to feeling poorer. In the US, where over 20 per cent of all personal wealth is invested directly in the equity markets, the downturn in spending is likely to be particularly marked and rapid. Mr Steven Bell, an economist at Morgan Grenfell, the London securities house, estimates that US consumers have sustained losses of close to \$1,000bn - equivalent to \$4,000 per citizen. Japan, West Germany, Britain and France, where a higher proportion of shares are held indirectly through pension funds and insurance companies, can expect a smaller, though still significant, drop in demand as individuals rebuild their savings.

Consumers will not be the only ones to postpone spending decisions. The cost of capital for industrial companies has risen sharply as a direct result of lower equity prices, while the sales outlook for their products has deteriorated. Many pension fund surpluses, which have provided a useful financial cushion for businesses, have evaporated.

In these circumstances companies are likely to delay, if not cancel, their investment plans. If nothing else exporters in, say Britain, will hardly be confident about the prospects for exports to the US. Quantifying the overall impact on growth of reduced consumer demand and lower industrial investment is much more difficult. Crucially it will depend on whether the markets stabilise at around present levels.

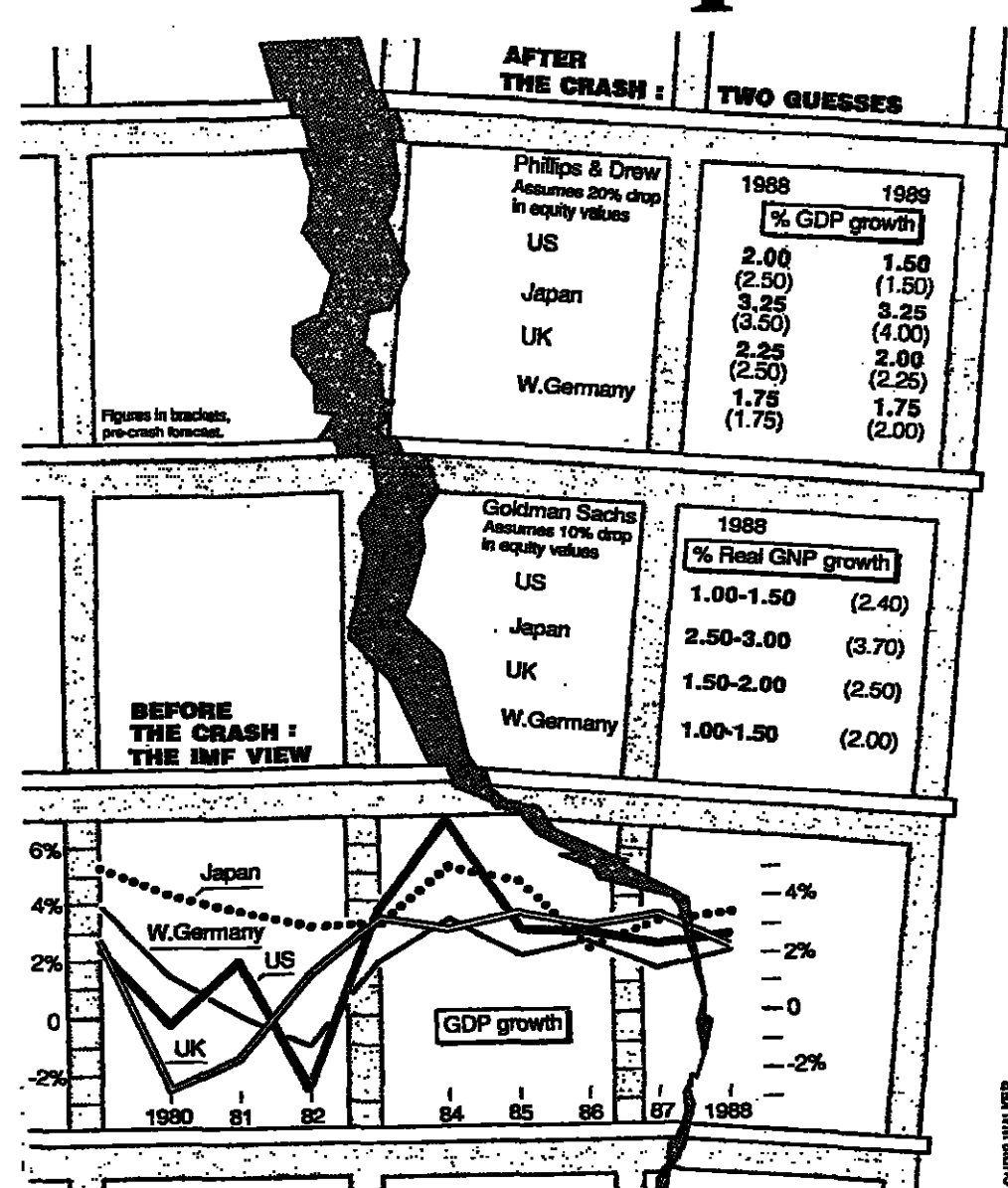
If they do not, the deflationary effects so far could be further intensified by failures among securities houses, possibly leading to forced sales of their equity holdings. That in turn would encourage a flight into cash from more tangible assets like shares and property and the increased tendency to save which traditionally follows fears of a financial collapse.

The braver City economists have made educated guesses of the possible economic impact, based on the heroic assumption that the markets now begin to stabilise. Mr David Morrison and Mr Gavin Davies at Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, estimate that - assuming a 10 per cent global stock market decline compared to the average level of the last six months - growth in the US may be only 1 per cent to 1 1/2 per cent next year against their previously forecast 2 1/2 per cent. Negative effects are evident in other economies - as the charts show.

Britain's economic growth, which was anyway likely to slow next year to perhaps 2 1/2 per cent, might now be as low as 1 1/2 per cent to 2 per cent, the economists believe. Mr Bill Martin, at Phillips &amp; Drew, is slightly more optimistic, partly because he expects a sustained fall in real, or inflation-adjusted, interest rates. His calculations, based on an equity price drop of 20 per cent rather than 10 per cent, point to growth next year of 2 per cent in the US, 3 1/2 per cent in Japan, 1 1/2 per cent in West Germany and 2 1/2 per cent in Britain. Even if this relative optimism proves well-founded, growth averaging barely more than 2 per

Philip Stephens considers the economic implications of the stock market crash

## Now the hard questions



cent is hardly auspicious. At that level, unemployment would assume its upward trend and the already acute financial problems of developing and heavily indebted countries would intensify as commodity prices weakened and markets in industrial countries shrank.

There is, perhaps, the hint of a silver lining in the difference between the two sets of estimates. The Group of Seven to preserve last February's dollar stabilisation pact.

But - and assuming the markets grant policymakers a breathing space - it will be the longer term policy response that counts. And here the auspices for a durable consensus are less encouraging.

Outside the US, there is an overwhelming consensus among policymakers that Washington must follow up the \$78bn reduction in the US deficit to \$148bn with a further cut in 1988. In the characteristically blunt language which he has directed across the Atlantic for much of the week, Mr Nigel Lawson, Britain's Chancellor, added yesterday that tax increases in the US were an essential part of that process.

As long as the budget deficit has to be financed by foreign savings, the argument runs, a reduction in the US trade gap will depend on a parallel cut in that deficit.

Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, has implicitly accepted that view by prodding the President to seek a compromise with Congress. The view in Washington is that Mr Baker does not like tax increases but if that is what is necessary to reduce the deficit he will accept them.

The Treasury Secretary, understandably, will look for a complementary response from the surplus nations - particularly West Germany. If the US is to reduce its trade deficit to sustainable levels without an outright recession, then it needs much faster domestic growth in West Germany and Japan. In any event, US success in narrowing the budget gap would reinforce the deflationary impact on the world economy of the stock market crash.

In Bonn and Tokyo, however, there were few signs of a spontaneous acknowledgement that efforts to restore more long-term stability would require action there as well as in Washington. It will certainly be an issue, one senior official commented. But that was far as he was prepared to go. Without such a shift most economists - official as well as independent - find it hard to imagine that the dollar can be sustained at present levels. For the immediate future there is little doubt that central banks will intervene to prop up the US currency, but few are enthusiastic about the prospects of continuing to finance the US budget deficit indefinitely.

There are also real doubts among senior European monetary officials over just how long the US will be able to maintain a commitment to a stable dollar as its economy slows in the run up to next year's presidential election. Unless Japan and West Germany take up the slack something will have to give - either the dollar or the Administration's opposition to protectionism, one participant in meetings of the Group of Seven commented this week.

In present circumstances it is hard to see Japanese investors rushing to buy US securities to finance the deficit. As central banks have amassed around \$90bn through intervention this year, Japan's investors have already been canny enough to finance their purchases of US assets with borrowed rather than bought dollars.

The fall in US interest rates - so far sharper than in the rest of the world - has also eroded one of the key props under the dollar: the interest rate differential between America and the rest of the world.

So if ministers and central bankers were this week proclaiming the success of the Louvre Accord in insulating the foreign exchange markets from the chaos elsewhere, it may well be there that they will face their next test.

If, and it remains an if, this week's firefighting succeeds in calming the stock markets and in averting a full-scale recession, governments still face the prospect of persuading financial markets that they will offer more than words to tackle the imbalances at the heart of the instability.

## US consumers are estimated to have sustained total losses of close to \$1,000bn, the equivalent of about \$4,000 per citizen

The impact on growth in the major economies. The fact that consumption in the US is hit harder than in the rest of the world will dampen the US appetite for imports. That in turn should lead to some improvement in the US external deficit. Goldman Sachs, for example, is now forecasting a deficit of \$128bn in 1988 rather than \$138bn.

Inflation around the world is also likely to be lower as a result of the crash, effectively squashing the fears over prices which have pushed interest rates sharply higher in recent months.

Such consolations, however, would have been missed for deficit reduction in this business cycle and Mr Reagan would have to witness the self-destruction of Reaganomics from the White House, not from his ranch in California.

Then Mr Baker's hopes of seeing another Republican (perhaps even his friend Vice-President George Bush) elected to the Presidency, and a number of new Republicans to the Congress, would almost certainly be dashed.

So as he hurries around Washington trying to engineer a budget deficit deal and head off what he calls an "apocalypse now" economic scenario, much more than his own political reputation is on the line.

When he has a quieter moment he will no doubt reflect upon how and why it all happened on his watch. Mr Baker can perhaps comfort himself that the odds were always stacked against him. "I always said it would end in tears" was how Mr Nigel Lawson, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, assessed US economic policy last year.

But nonetheless, he seems to have committed at least two serious errors: the timing of his attack on West Germany was flawed, and he underestimated the strength of one of his opponents.

This should not be surprising. Most "apocalypse now" scenarios were written around a crisis in the foreign exchange markets, the domestic bond markets or the Tokyo stock market - not Wall Street. But Mr Baker cannot say he was not warned.

Mr Volcker and Mr Gerald Corrigan of the New York Fed, market men to their fingertips, have long been saying policymakers should pay more attention to the threat to financial stability inherent in the technological revolution on Wall Street.

They will not be drawing any more comfort from the accuracy of their warnings than Mr Baker, who must be crossing his fingers now and praying he can do for himself what he has helped to do so often for his President - at least a partial victory from the jaws of defeat.

## Man in the News

James Baker

## When a seasoned gambler overplays his hand

By Stewart Fleming in Washington



WHEN Mr James Baker took over as US Treasury Secretary in February 1985, and picked up the cards his predecessor had left on the table, there were no aces in the hand.

The Federal budget was out of control, and his colleagues had transformed a rising dollar into a national virility symbol, heedless of the warnings that the mushrooming trade deficit created by an overvalued dollar would sap the nation's strength as well as economic strength.

Mr Baker could not complain about the hand he had been dealt. While he had fought the good fight for fiscal responsibility in the early years of the Reagan presidency, he can scarcely claim to have been an innocent bystander as the foundations were laid for the multi-billion dollar budget and trade deficits, given that he was White House Chief of Staff at the time.

When he made his first big move, calling the Plaza meeting in New York in September 1985 to announce a dollar devaluation strategy, he kept his hand hidden, making out the deal but palmed not just the aces, but most of the kings and queens as well.

For two and a half years the financial markets, force fed on a diet of excess liquidity and disinflation, joyfully suspended their disbelief in American economic policy. And Mr Baker's interlocutors at the international economic policy negotiating table, terrified by their fear of an American-induced worldwide recession, opted to play for time.

But, as the American saying goes, "It ain't over 'till the fat lady starts to sing." And last Monday she started screaming, as Wall Street went into convulsions at the prospect of a breakdown in international economic policy coordination.

The trigger was Mr Baker's decision 10 days ago to launch another round of carefully calculated public arm twisting of the West Germans, who were persisting in fighting an inflation he does not recognise - not the recession he fears. But he had called everyone's bluff once too often.

It was one scare too many for financial markets already spooked by the inflation fears the Federal Reserve has been

fanning and signs of disarray among Washington's politicians.

The question Washington is now asking is "who lost Wall Street", and Mr Baker's name, inevitably, is top of many people's lists.

As the New York Times put it last week, Mr Baker has been one of the capital's "untouchables". But when the Washington Post, the city's barometre of political fortunes, described his reputation on Wall Street as " tarnished " and " groundless rumours, that he would be replaced by (former Fed chairman) Paul Volcker, there was no need to read between the lines.

But Jim Baker, scion of one of the foremost families in the US, is as tough as the cowboy boots he likes to wear when he goes hunting. He is fighting back hard.

Indeed, if only the stock market would calm down, he could claim to be half way there. The West Germans have reduced their interest rates as he wanted, dollar interest rates have gone into reverse and his secret hope of persuading an obstinate President and a fractious Congress to cut a budget deficit deal - even the modest \$23bn package now on the table - could be on the verge of realisation. That might help him squeeze some meaningful concessions out of Frankfurt and

A man so sensitive to the political tides must know that the costs have already been high, and could go higher. As President Reagan himself admitted on Thursday night "if enough people, without understanding the situation, panicked" because of the Wall Street crash "and decided to put off buying, postponing purchases and so forth, that could bring on something of a recession."

Already, sluggish growth means that serious budget cutting could help to send the US economy sliding. If Mr Reagan's recession scenario were to be realised, then the opportunity



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## APPOINTMENTS

## Senior executive posts at Guinness Mahon

GUINNESS MAHON & CO. has appointed Mr Julian Paul as a director of the bank. He was with Hispano-American Bank, Ms Lucinda Boulton has been appointed a director of corporate finance. Ms Sally Goodsell becomes an assistant director, joining from Hispano-American Bank. Mr Tony Allen joins as an assistant director from Cayer where he was a director. Mr Brian Bishop has been appointed an assistant director in the operations division.

STOREHOUSE has appointed Mr Ken Gaskell as chief executive of Storecard, its joint in-house credit card venture with Citibank Savings. He was financial director of Mothercare.

ARTHUR YOUNG has appointed as partners Mr Peter Burberry, Mr Geoffrey Forage, Mr John Harman, Mr Ramon McGrath, Mr Stephen Parkinson, Mr Michael Stone, Mr Peter Dearings, Mr Nigel Towers, Mr Anne Scott, Mr Alan Miller, and Mr James Kelman.

Mr Roger Graham has taken over as chairman of CHRISTIAN BRANN. He is chairman

and managing director of the BIS Group, of which Christian Brann is a member. He takes over from Mr Brian Allison, who has taken a post at NYNEX Corp., parent of the BIS Group.

Mr Toshio Tanaka has been appointed president of IBC VERICLES, Luton, the recently formed GM/Isuzu venture company.

Mr Andrew Gray has been appointed chief executive of LONDON EUROPEAN AIRWAYS. He joins from British Airways, where he was financial controller - marketing, and formerly general manager Europe.

Mr Roy Gibson has been appointed as special adviser to Mr Olof Lundberg, director general of the INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INMARSAT) on November 1. Mr Gibson was director general of the British National Space Centre, and was first director general of the European Space Agency.

Mr Bernard G. Pendle, managing director of Cow & Gate, has been appointed joint managing director of the parent company N.V. VERENIGDE BEDRIJVEN

NUTRICIA. Mr Pendle will retain his present post, and will become responsible for operations in Scandinavia, France, Austria, Spain, Italy and Greece. Mr Peter F. Mills, while retaining financial director of Cow & Gate, has been appointed deputy managing director, with responsibility for the company's day-to-day operation.

Mr David Kendrick, main board director of KYLE STEWART, has relinquished direct control of the group's design-related activities to take charge of group marketing. Mr Chris Gilmour, deputy chief architect, becomes general manager of design services.

and an associate director of Kyle Stewart. Mr Tony Johns, an associate director, is made deputy general manager of design services in addition to his post as group chief engineer. Mr Tim O'Sullivan, an associate director, has been promoted to commercial manager of Kyle Stewart. He was deputy general manager of design services.

Mr R. Carlier has been appointed to the executive committee of J.H. MINET. Mr M. Bristow has been appointed managing director of the international treaty division; and Mr J. Cavanagh has been appointed deputy managing director of the North American reinsurance division.

## ECONOMIC DIARY

TOMORROW: Chinese Communist Party national congress opens. Peking.

MONDAY: City of London airport opens. Sir Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman, statement on first anniversary of City's Big Bang.

universities launch financial fightback campaign. European Parliament session opens. Strasbourg, will discuss budget although council has failed to deliver draft; level of agricultural stocks Europe should keep; system for rapid exchange of information in the case of a nuclear accident. EC Transport Ministers meet in Luxembourg, to discuss planned high speed train link. International Air Transport Association meeting opens in Caracas (until October 28). Market makers in the London-based equity warrant market (the largest portion of which are for stocks of Japanese companies) meet to discuss trading ground rules. Royal Dutch/Shell group third quarter results. Ecuadorean investment seminar in London. Lucas Industries full year results.

TUESDAY: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics for September. ECB quarterly Industrial Trends Survey. Financial Times fifth professional personal computer conference, London. French Government holds emergency debate on privatisation programme. US and EC officials meet on Airbus dispute, London. National Economic Development Council statement on British industrial performance. Engineering annual meeting opens, Singapore (until October 31). Portuguese budget due to be presented, Lisbon. EC monetary committee meets, Brussels. Mr Karl Otto Poehl, Bundesbank president, addresses bank symposium, Frankfurt. National Home Loans Corporation finalises.

THURSDAY: Energy trends for August. London sterling certificates of deposit for September. The Hague. Marks and Spencer half year results; Union Carbide Corporation finalises. THURSDAY: Energy trends for August. London sterling certificates of deposit for September. The Hague. Marks and Spencer half year results; Union Carbide Corporation finalises. THURSDAY: Energy trends for August. London sterling certificates of deposit for September. The Hague. Marks and Spencer half year results; Union Carbide Corporation finalises.

FULCRUM INVESTMENT TRUST P.L.C. Net asset value (unaudited) as at 30th September, 1987. Income Shares 45.04p Capital Shares 20.12p

## FT-ACTUARIES INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

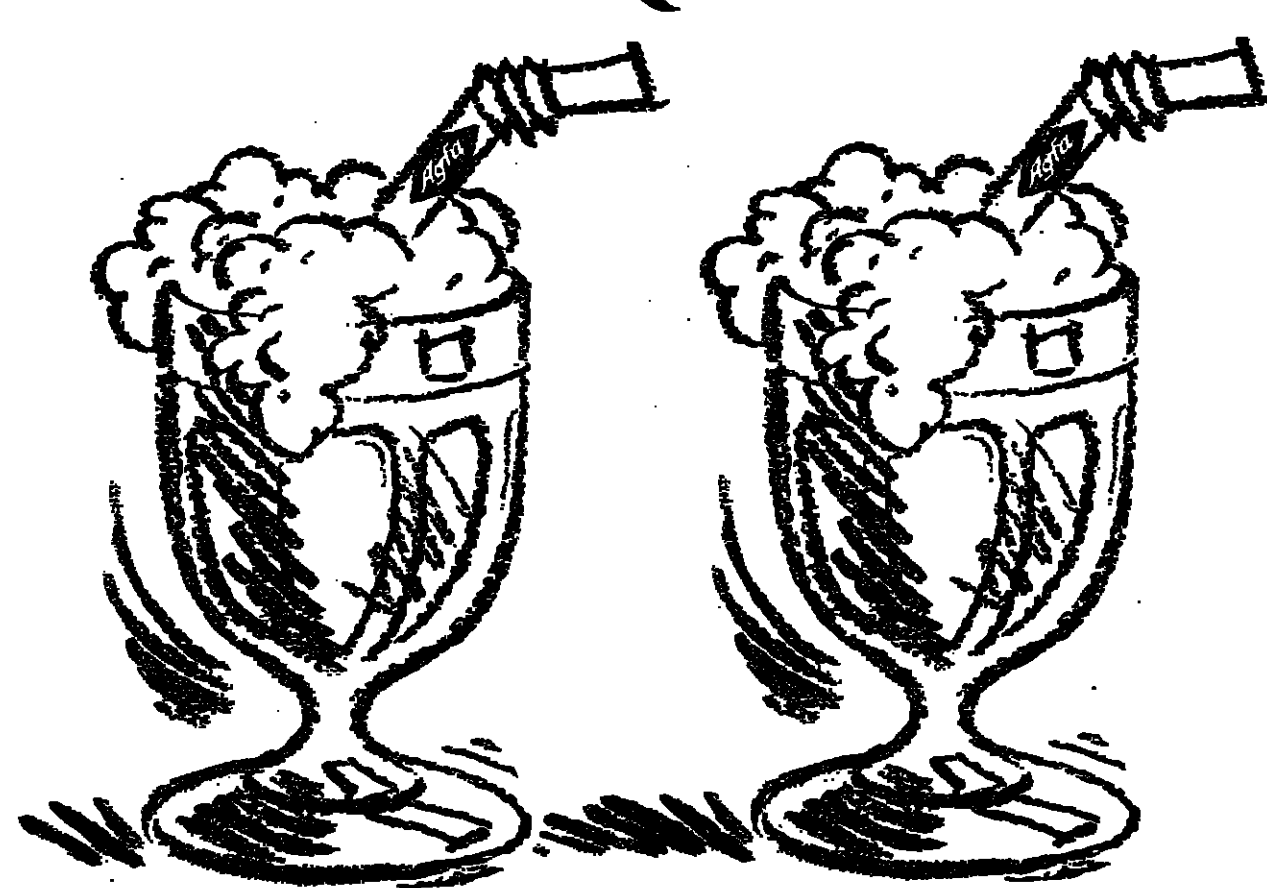
EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS	Friday October 23 1987										Highs and Lows Index			
											1987		Since Completion	
	Index No.	Day's Change %	Ed. Earnings (Mn.)	Div. Yield % (Act. or Est.)	Est. P/E Ratio (Act. or Est.)	Ad. adj. 1987 to date	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	High	Low	High	Low
1 CAPITAL GOODS (214)	773.59	-3.1	9.06	3.65	23.87	28.37	798.31	854.68	815.65	645.27	1038.07	167.87	1038.07	167.87
2 Building Materials (30)	966.27	-5.9	9.62	3.81	22.95	22.79	1035.09	1094.94	1058.08	775.55	1381.88	167.87	1381.88	167.87
3 Chemicals, Consumer (13)	1478.26	-4.7	8.54	3.48	18.63	29.46	1511.76	1597.14	1533.59	1079.59	1925.50	167.87	1925.50	167.87
4 Electronics (14)	2036.66	-2.7	8.92	4.29	14.63	54.41	2087.90	2149.45	2064.46	1726.82	2733.45	167.87	2733.45	167.87
5 Food (13)	1706.87	+0.2	9.46	2.95	13.79	34.90	1704.90	1839.83	1740.56	1396.24	2236.70	177.87	2236.70	177.87
6 Mechanical Engineering (40)	431.41	-2.3	8.87	3.90	14.18	10.90	421.86	433.65	438.33	395.47	544.57	147.0	544.57	147.0
7 Metals and Metal Forming (7)	439.62	-2.8	8.96	3.70	13.59	9.11	452.26	479.75	464.53	326.46	596.67	9.10	596.67	9.10
8 Motors (14)	292.71	-3.6	9.94	3.04	11.77	5.86	303.48	331.33	314.63	258.47	411.42	133.0	411.42	133.0
9 Other Industrial Materials (22)	1287.31	-4.0	8.10	4.03	14.68	36.48	1340.47	1442.07	1377.83	1187.22	1734.80	167.87	1734.80	167.87
10 CONSUMER GROUP (183)	1069.58	-2.0	7.79	3.32	16.33	18.23	1081.15	1140.36	1063.15	985.76	1406.32	167.87	1406.32	167.87
11 Breweries and Distillers (22)	1061.66	-3.6	10.26	3.76	12.32	17.52	1018.10	1057.79	991.34	904.78	1249.35	167.87	1249.35	167.87
12 Food Manufacturing (23)	1022.06	-1.5	8.96	3.78	14.40	16.64	1034.83	1085.12	1011.24	891.77	1092.25	167.87	1092.25	167.87
13 Textiles (16)	2051.06	+1.1	7.08	2.84	18.83	39.17	2059.34	2150.05	2025.34	1857.70	2649.96	167.87	2649.96	167.87
14 Non-Ferrous Metals (10)	2838.31	-2.2	6.14	2.42	18.94	16.41	2878.93	2972.42	2714.22	2400.49	3699.85	167.87	3699.85	167.87
15 Leisure (30)	1113.57	-2.4	8.89	3.91	18.13	28.12	1191.86	1268.04	1190.12	902.32	1504.79	131.0	1504.79	131.0
16 Packaging & Paper (16)	949.31	-3.4	7.52	3.24	17.51	10.96	968.89	1014.25	977.86	855.84	1234.88	167.87	1234.88	167.87
17 Publishing & Printing (15)	1187.94	-3.0	7.78	4.01	22.38	67.56	1247.35	1301.85	1249.34	1016.67	1507.66	167.87	1507.66	167.87
18 Chemicals (21)	1061.06	-1.7	8.90	4.15	13.74	32.85	1131.34	1202.82	1131.41	1064.64	1477.70	167.87	1477.70	167.87
19 Textiles (16)	676.21	-4.1	9.32	4.41	12.45	78.51	763.48	754.28	715.00	615.52	914.52	2.10	914.52	2.10
20 OTHER GROUPS (86)	879.20	-3.1	9.90	4.04	12.58	20.69	907.78	968.40	915.23	762.61	1192.48	167.87	1192.48	167.87
21 Agencies (17)	1164.51	-4.7	5.40	1.95	24.35	15.86	1217.99	1248.15	1186.78	8.0	1795.57	177.87	1795.57	177.87
22 Chemicals (21)	1187.94	-3.0	8.90	4.15	13.74	32.85	1131.34	1202.82	1131.41	1064.64	1477.70	167.87	1477.70	167.87
23 Conglomerates (13)	1140.31	-3.5	9.01	4.10	12.69	22.14	1181.15	1243.76	1130.99	8.0	1547.01	167.87	1547.01	167.87
24 Shipping and Transport (11)	1012.25	-8.6	9.35	4.54	14.05	51.44	1023.87	1099.44	1050.28	849.32	1497.85	167.87	1497.85	167.87
25 Telephone Networks (2)	979.90	-0.6	11.52	4.59	11.58	18.98	985.51	1068.87	1007.38	745.35	1274.14	167.87	1274.14	167.87
26 Miscellaneous (22)	1073.82	-3.5	11.25	3.72	10.03	32.87	1131.34	1202.82	1131.41	1064.64	1477.70	167.87	1477.70	167.87
27 INDUSTRIAL GROUP (45)	107.75	-2.6	8.49	3.60	14.50	19.44	979.98	1033.49	973.32	899.85	1268.56	167.87	1268.56	167.87
28 Oil & Gas (17)	1002.30	-1.3	9.51	5.44	12.97	65.73	1079.42	1167.38	1078.41	1135.59	1458.68	167.87	1458.68	167.87
29 SOI SHARE INDEX (200)	1028.24	-2.0	8.81	3.87	14.25	23.43	1041.49	1104.37	1041.54	853.40	1369.88	167.87	1369.88	167.87
30 FINANCIAL GROUP (128)	677.34	-3.7	—	4.54	—	19.58	703.10	733.02	689.64	596.30	896.67	131.0	896.67	131.0
31 Banks (8)	680.75	-2.6	19.60	5.72	6.74	25.98	698.64	724.05	662.77	646.73	898.38	167.87	898.38	167.87
32 Insurance (Life) (9)	922.12	-5.3	—	4.85	—	31.49	973.48	1034.83	959.44	861.35	1285.72	167.87	1285.72	167.87
33 Insurance (Non-life) (3)	1140.31	-3.2	7.88	4.10	12.69	22.14	1181.15	1243.76	1130.99	8.0	1547.01	167.87	1547.01	167.87
34 Insurance (Brokers) (6)	989.25	-4.2	11.22	7.99	11.40	38.19	1033.41	1058.39	998.77	1251.61	1399.56	177.87	1399.56	177.87
35 Merchant Banks (12)	411.54	-4.5	—	3.21	—	8.49	431.04	444.75	435.33	337.94	547.59	121.0	547.59	121.0
36 Property (48)	1027.00	-3.1	4.75	2.90	27.12	15.63	1058.59	1113.02	1068.57	771.81	1374.86	167.87	1374.86	167.87
37 Overseas Financial (20)	451.71	-5.9	9.86	4.53	16.28	10.24	457.94	482.91	463.51	405.48	545.48	167.87	545.48	167.87
38 Investment Trusts (8)	946.95	-2.3	—	2.40	—	14.44	971.54	1014.24	971.58	801.72	1224.41	2.10	1224.41	2.10
39 Mining Finance (2)	441.54	-6.0	10.30	3.87	10.94	10.41	479.75	492.30	512.34	323.94	777.93	3.8	777.93	3.8
40 Mining Traders (10)	942.17	-6.0	9.77	5.19	11.99	29.58	1002.30	1089.10	1058.28	728.80	1364.12	131.0	1364.12	131.0
41 ALL-SHARE INDEX (730)	930.33	-2.4	—	3.94	—	22.01	953.46	1007.47	951.95	783.44	1234.57	167.87	1234.57	167.87
FT-SE 100 SHARE INDEX	1793.12	-36.8	1822.41	1746.31	1833.12	1943.81	1861.61	2052.51	1961.91	1577.11	2443.4	167.87	2443.4	167.87

## FIXED INTEREST

PRICE INDICES	Fri Oct 23	Day's Change %	Thurs Oct 22	ad. adj. 1987 to date	ad. adj. 1987 to date	AVERAGE GROSS REDEMPTION YIELDS				1987			
						British Government	Overseas	Index-Linked	Index-Linked	High	Low	High	Low
1 Low Coupons	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
2 Medium Coupons	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
3 High Coupons	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
4 Index-Linked	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
5 All Stocks	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
6 Index-Linked	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
7 Over 5 years	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
8 All Stocks	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
9 Index-Linked	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
10 Preference	9.21	9.57	9.78	9.92	19.10	7.52	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5

CONSTITUENT CHANGES: Caledonia Investments (70) has been inserted.			
Equity section or groupBase value	Equity section or groupBase value	Equity section or groupBase value	Equity section or groupBase value
Agencies	31/12/86	31/12/87	31/12/88
Conglomerates	31/12/86	31/12/87	31/12/88
Telephone Networks	31/12/86	31/12/87	31/12/88
Electronics	31/12/86	31/12/87	31/12/88
Other Industrial Materials	31/12/86	31/12/87	31/12/88
Health/Household Products	31/12/86	31/12/87	31/12/88
Other Groups	31/12/86	31/12/87	31/12/88

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## INTL. COMPANIES &amp; FINANCE

## State and banks to bail out Fokker

BY LAURA RAUN IN AMSTERDAM

FOKKER, the financially troubled Dutch aerospace company, is to be rescued by fresh financial support from the Dutch Government and commercial banks.

The new financing has strings attached and is believed to amount to F1 200m (\$98m-147m). An agreement in principle was reached yesterday between Fokker, the economics and finance ministers and creditor banks on the "improvement of the solvency and liquidity of the company," according to a terse statement from the Economics Ministry.

Mr Rudolf de Korte, the Economics Minister, will disclose details to the parliamentary committee in charge of state aid

in a closed-door session on Monday. The news apparently means that the Netherlands' only aerospace company and a recognised specialist in the manufacture of short- to medium-haul airliners will survive.

Fokker is one of the few European aircraft makers without any government ownership and has plunged into red ink and a cash crisis trying to get two new planes off the ground. Speculation nevertheless mounted yesterday that the small aerospace company will have to merge with a competitor and strengthen its management in order to receive the new financing.

A detailed leak in the Dutch press claimed that the Dutch

cabinet is prepared to provide new credit under two conditions: if Fokker co-operates with another aerospace concern and if it appoints a manager to sort out severe production problems.

Fokker requested the suspension of share trading on the Amsterdam stock exchange yesterday and Monday. During the past week's market crash the company's share price has plunged 24 per cent to F1 34.50 and is down 41 per cent from the beginning of October.

The Schiphol-based company's financial difficulties have resulted from soaring development costs for the new 50-seat Fokker F-50 and 100-seat F-100. Prestigious commercial air-

lines such as KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Swissair have placed orders for the F-50 turboprop and F-100 fanjet. About F1 1.5bn in government aid and commercial loans has already been provided to the 76-year-old company but the funds have run out, leaving F134m in red ink for the first half of 1987 and a cash-flow crunch.

A prime candidate for a possible merger would be Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB), the West German aerospace concern with which Fokker recently agreed in principle to collaborate in research, production and marketing. How substantial the co-operation would be depends on an initial feasibility study.

## European car radio consortium launched

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN GENEVA

A SECOND manufacturing consortium to tackle the planned pan-European digital car radio market was launched yesterday by Alcatel, the French telecommunications group, along with Nokia of Finland and AEG of West Germany.

The agreement, announced at the Telecom 87 exhibition in Geneva, follows only a few days after a similar consortium arrangement was reached between another group of European companies led by Ericsson of Sweden and Orbitel, the UK joint venture between Racal and Plessey. It is expected that Siemens, the West German electronics group, Matra of France and the General Electric Company of the UK will also join this group.

The pan-European digital mo-

bile telephone system, agreed after intensive inter-government negotiations earlier this year, is widely seen as a test case for co-operation in European telecommunications.

It is aimed at creating a new car telephone network which will allow the equipment to be used universally within the European Community and most adjacent countries. To achieve this, common standards have been agreed in an attempt to avoid the market fragmentation caused at present by the use of different technologies.

Ministers have also stressed in the past that the launch of the digital system, which will provide much increased capacity and quality for car telephones, also gives European companies an opportunity to

develop world-beating technology.

At present, Europe buys a considerable amount of its mobile telephone equipment from North American and Japanese suppliers, but it is notable that all the participants joining the two consortia so far are indigenous European producers.

The most significant absentee in Motorola, the US group which has a leading position in the supply of the present generation of mobile telephone equipment.

Executives from the Alcatel-Nokia-AEG consortium indicated yesterday that they had talked to Motorola and that the group remained open to additional partners. But there seem to have been fears that Motorola would have wanted too domi-

nant a position in the newly formed group.

Mr Pierre Suard, chairman of Alcatel, said yesterday that the three partners have agreed to share their research and manufacturing. The consortium organisation would not have a separate capital structure, he added.

Alcatel also announced yesterday that it had reached a similar agreement with SGS-Thomson, the Franco-Italian semiconductor company formed earlier this year. The deal will give Alcatel greater access to SGS's expertise in the design of telecommunications chips, while the semiconductor company will be given a guaranteed outlet for a certain volume of its products.

## First-quarter surge at P&amp;G

BY JAMES BUCHAN IN NEW YORK

PROCTER & GAMBLE, the giant US consumer products group, yesterday announced a 30.4 per cent increase in net income for its first quarter ended September and revealed that it would buy back just over 1.5 per cent of its own shares.

At the same time, the company said it would be involved in the marketing of a new anti-baldness lotion developed by Upjohn, the pharmaceuticals group.

The flurry of announcements sent Procter & Gamble stock up against a falling market, with a 5 1/4 rise to \$81 in the first hour of trading.

Procter & Gamble reported earnings of \$356m or \$2.09 a

share in the September quarter against \$273m or \$1.61 a share. Sales were 7 per cent ahead at \$4.36bn.

The company joined the host of companies seeking to buy back stock in this week's depressed market with a promise to purchase up to 10m shares over time.

Mr John Smale, chairman, said: "We are taking this action because we see a promising future in the past week has, at times, represented an excellent buying opportunity and we want to be prepared for such opportunities if and when they arise in the future."

Meanwhile, Upjohn announced that it agreed a

long-term joint programme with the marketing giant for the discovery and development of new hair growth products and delivery systems for minoxidil, Upjohn's baldness drug now sold under the name Rogaine.

Although Rogaine has yet to be approved for use in the US, Procter & Gamble said yesterday that it expects the hair growth and maintenance market will "step into a significant business."

Upjohn, meanwhile, said joint research would include new chemical formulas to which both companies would have marketing rights. It added that first results should appear within five years.

Fanuc, the world's largest maker of numerical control equipment for machine tools, shocked the Tokyo stock market yesterday by announcing an unexpected 27 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits.

The company, which is struggling to meet the demands of the strong overseas sales, reported pre-tax profits of ¥14bn (\$97.2m) compared with ¥18.1bn, on sales of ¥53.3bn (\$347.8m) for the six months to September.

Fanuc sharply cut its forecast of profits for the year, from ¥56bn to ¥51.2bn, on estimated sales of ¥212.3bn (\$1,382.5m). Last year pre-tax profits fell 42 per cent to ¥30.2bn.

The company said its recovery was taking place more slowly than had been expected. Sales of its mainstay computer numerically controlled equipment systems were down 17.3 per cent to ¥44.3bn.

It is still struggling to develop sales of industrial robots, most of which are sold to GM Fanuc, a joint venture with General Motors of the US. Robot sales in Japan fell 40.7 per cent to ¥3bn.

Net interim profits were ¥7.1bn, down from ¥10.5bn, and ¥13.6bn is expected for the full year. Earnings per share were ¥31.68 against ¥56.00.

Fanuc is maintaining its interim dividend of ¥7.50 a share and is forecasting ¥15 for the year.

## Daimler-Benz sales edge ahead

BY ANDREW FISHER IN FRANKFURT

SALES OF Daimler-Benz, West Germany's largest industrial company, moved ahead in the first nine months, with business helped considerably by stronger demand in the truck sector.

Daimler said sales were 3 per cent higher during the period at DM47.7bn (\$27.7bn). For the full year, it expects a total of more than DM66bn, against DM65.5bn in 1986.

The Stuttgart-based group, which has recently stepped into electronics (AEG), engines (Motoren) and turbines (Dornier) and aerospace (Dornier), said that profits for 1987 would again be satisfactory, despite the pressure on foreign sales revenue

caused by the weaker dollar.

Last year, Daimler raised net income from DM1.68bn to DM1.77bn, and earnings per share from DM1.78 to DM1.85. The group does not publish interim profit figures. Yesterday, the shares, which have fallen sharply in recent days along with DM66bn, against DM65.5bn in 1986.

The company said its basic vehicle business expanded by 5 per cent in January-September. Sales of trucks rose 10 per cent to DM37.8bn. Unlike 1986, the commercial vehicle division was the main contributor to growth, mostly because of much higher

sales achieved by subsidiaries in North and South America and in Spain.

While car sales showed growth of 3 per cent in sales to DM22.5bn, trucks improved by 10 per cent to DM15.3bn. New truck registrations also went up in Germany and the rest of Europe, although the Middle East market remained weak.

Sales in Germany of Mercedes cars, at 220,000, were nearly as high as the previous year, when business was stimulated by people taking advantage of tax concessions (now ended) on low-pollution cars. Car exports were 4 per cent higher, at 247,500.

## Duiker to halt blue asbestos output

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

DUIKER EXPLORATION, the Lonrho group's South African mining arm, is to close its blue asbestos mines in the northern Cape province until demand in the fibre recovers. Blue asbestos is a particularly hazardous type of asbestos and health fears have led to sharp drops in demand around the world.

Lower export coal prices and a further deterioration in asbestos revenues were the principal contributors to the group's profit drop to R3.4m (\$1.66m) from R24.4m (\$12.2m) in the first nine months.

been cut to 30 cents from 48 cents.

The company's asbestos production dropped to 4,800 tonnes from 6,500 tonnes in the previous year. Anthracite output fell to 645,787 tonnes from 695,622 tonnes, steam coal production was lifted to 2.83m tonnes from 2.54m tonnes and gold production from the company's small mine in the north-eastern Transvaal rose to 201kg from 191kg.

from R24.4m. Duiker's principal interest in gold is its 36 per cent shareholding in Eastern Goldfields, which has an estimated 10 per cent interest in the Erfdel section of Anglo American's Freegold mine.

Erfdel came into production in this year's September quarter when it mined 50,000 tonnes of ore and produced 146kg of gold.

Earnings dropped to 23.1 cents a share from 93.4 cents and the year's dividend has been cut to 30 cents from 48 cents.

## Rand Mines Properties lifts payout

BY OUR JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT

RAND MINES Properties, the Barlow Rand group's property development and gold recovery company, lifted property sales profits sharply in the year to end-September and brought a new gold recovery plant into operation. The company has also increased its dividend.

Revenue from gold sales rose to R83.5m (\$40.7m) from R63.3m with that from property sales rising to R21.2m from R13m. The operating profit from gold rose

to R21.4m from R18.1m and that from property to R5.9m from R5.6m.

Total pre-tax profit was R27.5m against the previous financial year's R22.4m.

The directors say the higher-than-planned dividend has been declared as the company has completed the major capital expenditure on gold recovery plants. The full dividend has been lifted to 80 cents from 70 cents.

63 cents a share on earnings of 155 cents against 123 cents.

Gold is recovered from old sands dumps near Johannesburg's central business district. In May a new recovery plant was brought on stream on the old City Deep mine. As a result the tonnage of sands and slimes processed increased to 6.4m tonnes from the previous financial year's 5.4m tonnes and gold production was raised to 2,514kg from 2,290kg.

## Cominco back in black as prices increase

BY ROBERT GIBBENS IN MONTREAL

COMINCO, the big Canadian base metals producer now controlled by Teck Corporation of Vancouver, Metallgesellschaft of West Germany, and MIM Holdings of Australia, is feeling the benefit of higher lead and copper prices and higher volumes of zinc and copper shipments.

Operating net profits in the third quarter were C\$7m (US\$3m) or four cents a share, against a loss of C\$13.9m or 27 cents, taking operating profits in the first nine months to C\$25.5m or 19 cents a share, against a loss of C\$48.6m a year

earlier. Sales were \$726m against \$712m.

After \$66.1m in special gains from the sale of power utility and tax credits, final nine-month earnings were \$92.6m or \$1.14 a share against a loss of \$8.2m a year earlier.

The company said the fertilizer business was adversely affected by lower prices, but potash should improve in the fourth quarter with higher prices in the US.

Meanwhile, Falcenberg, the big Canadian nickel producer which has diversified into other

base metals, reported an increase in third-quarter earnings on the back of higher metal prices, writes David Owen in Toronto.

Net profit for the period ended September 30 totaled C\$17m or 23 cents a share, compared with just C\$5m or 8 cents in 1986. Third-quarter revenues rose sharply to C\$320m from C\$279m a year ago.

"Consolidated nine months' losses totaled C\$10m or 23 cents a share before extraordinary items, compared with a loss of C\$22m or 37 cents a share

in the corresponding 1986 period. Revenues for the first three quarters rose from C\$861m to C\$956m.

After taking into account a C\$46m gain, principally from the sale of 40 per cent stake in Johannesburg-based Western Platinum, final nine months' earnings were C\$30m or 43 cents a share, against C\$64m or C\$1.11.

The company said that it is anticipating a strong fourth quarter due to sound metal markets and good fundamentals.

## COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

## WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest price per tonne	Change	1987	High	Low
<b>Metals</b>					
Aluminum	\$1910/20	-25	\$1720/20	\$1800/20	\$1600/20
Free Market c.i.f.					
Antimony	\$2500/20	+10	\$2300/20	\$2400/20	\$2200/20
Free Market 99.5%					
Copper	\$1217.5	+1.0	\$1187.5	\$1200.0	\$1175.0
3 months Grade A					
Lead	\$235.0	-13	\$215.0	\$225.0	\$205.0
3 months					
Nickel	\$58.75	-4	\$54.75	\$56.75	\$52.75
Free Market					
Platinum	\$137.75	-7.50	\$130.25	\$137.75	\$122.75
3 months					
Quicksilver (70%)	\$805/500	-18.00	\$787.00	\$805.00	\$769.00
Silver per oz.	\$454.00	-16.50	\$437.50	\$454.00	\$421.00
3 months per oz.					
Tin	\$2170/20	+38.50	\$2131.50	\$2170.00	\$2093.00
Free Market					
Tungsten	\$181.15	-1.50	\$179.65	\$181.15	\$178.15
3 months					
Zinc	\$524.00	-1.50	\$522.50	\$524.00	\$521.00
3 months					
Producers	\$524.00	-1.50	\$522.50	\$524.00	\$521.00
<b>Grains</b>					
Barley Futures Jan.	\$106.35	-0.75	\$105.60	\$106.35	\$104.85
Wheat Futures Jan.	\$114.00	-0.50	\$113.50	\$114.00	\$113.00
Wheat Futures Jan.	\$110.00	-1.00	\$109.00	\$110.00	\$108.00
<b>Spices</b>					
Cloves	\$2585	+25	\$2560	\$2585	\$2535
Pepper white	\$4775	+25	\$4750	\$4775	\$4725
<b>Oils</b>					
Copra (Philippines)	\$490	-17.5	\$472.5	\$490	\$455
Palm Malaysia	\$350	-1.0	\$349	\$350	\$348
Soybean (USA)	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Mar.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Oct.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Dec.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Jan.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Feb.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Mar.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Apr.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean May	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Jun.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Jul.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Aug.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Sep.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Oct.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Nov.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Dec.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Jan.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
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Soybean Apr.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean May	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Jun.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Jul.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Aug.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
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Soybean Mar.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
Soybean Apr.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50
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Soybean Jan.	\$11.50	+1.0	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$9.50















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	01-242	1145			23.3	PA			01-236	42	
CS America Fd	41.8	45.4	2.4	1.12	115.0	63.1	2.5	4.47	137.9	149.0	11.1
CS International Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1	2.7	4.06	137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Japan Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Pacific Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Europe Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Global Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Asia Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Africa Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Latin Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Middle East Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Global Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Asia Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Africa Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Latin Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Middle East Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Global Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Asia Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Africa Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Latin Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Middle East Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Global Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Asia Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Africa Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Latin Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Middle East Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Global Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Asia Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Africa Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Latin Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Middle East Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Global Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Asia Fd	47.7	50.7	3.0	1.12	115.0	63.1			137.9	149.0	11.1
CS Africa Fd	47.7	50.7									

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## BASE LENDING RATES

ABN Bank	1%	● Charleston Bank	1%	Red Bk. of Tenn.	10%
Adams & Company	10%	● Chicago Bk.	10%	RedWebster	10%
Admiral Archib. Ltd.	10%	City Merchants Bank	10%	Reformers Bank	10%
Allied Dairies & Co.	10%	Clydebank Bank	10%	Rochester Gas Trust	10%
Allied Irish Bank	10%	Com. Bk. N. East	10%	Rock Forest Mtld.	10%
American Exp. Bk.	10%	Cum gratia Bank	10%	Providence Trust Ltd.	12%
Amoy Bank	10%	Co-operative Bank	10%	R. Stephens & Sons	10%
Anglo Bank	10%	Cyperus Bank Ltd.	10%	St. Andrew's Bank	10%
Ant. Banking Group	10%	Duncan Lawrie	10%	Royal Bk. of Scotland	10%
Associated Cap. Corp.	10%	Easter Pl. Trst. Co.	10%	Royal Trust Bank	10%
Austrian & Co. Ltd.	10%	Excess Trst. Ltd.	10%	Scott's & Wilson Secs	10%
Banco de Bilbao	10%	Financial and Com. Bk.	10%	Standard Chartered	10%
Bank Hamilton	10%	First Nat. Fin. Corp.	11%	St. George's Bank	10%
Bank Leuven	10%	Flour Bank Ltd.	10%	UIT Bank Group	12%
Bank Credit & Comm.	10%	● Robert Fleming & Co.	10%	United Bk. of Numb.	10%
Bank of Cyprus	10%	Robert Fraser & P'ss.	11%	United British Bank	10%
Bank of Ireland	10%	Grosvenor	10%	Unity Trst. P.L.C.	10%
Bank of India	10%	Grindlays Bank	10%	Western Trust	10%
Bank of Scotland	10%	Grosvenor Malvern	10%	Wigton Bank Corp.	10%
Banking Indus. Ltd.	10%	HFC Trst. & Savings	10%	Willemstad Ldbr.	10%
Barclays Bank	10%	● Hamilton Bank	10%	Yorkshire Bank	10%
Banque Paribas Ltd.	10%	Harlequin & Harle. Trst.	10%		
Beaufort Trst. Ltd.	10%	● Hill Samuel	10%		
Benelux Bank AG	10%	C. Hoare & Co.	10%		
Bk. Bk. of Mid East	10%	Hughes & Strang	10%		
Banco Uruguay	10%	Lyons Bank	10%		
Bankers Trst.	10%	Meredith & Sons Ltd.	10%		
CL Bank Midland	10%	Midland Bank	10%		
Canada Permanent	10%	● Morgan Grenfell	10%		
Cape of Good Hope	10%	Naval Credit Corp. Ltd.	10%		

## TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

The following is based on trading volume for Alpha securities dealt through the SEAQ system yesterday until 5 pm.

[illegible]

**IGI LTD, 9-11 GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON SW1W 0BD**  
**28 7233/5699 Reuters Code: IGIN, IGIO**

FY 30		FYSE 100		WALL STREET	
Oct	1363/1383 -27	Oct	1740/1760 -25	Nov	1948/1968 -
Dec	1353/1373 -19	Dec	1730/1750 -35	Dec	1948/1968 -

Dealing hours from 9am to 5pm. Prices taken at 5pm.

## APPOINTMENTS ADVERTISING

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**APPOINTMENTS ADVERTISING**

545 per single column centimetre  
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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT RATES

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT RATES	
	Single column cm
	Per line (min. 3 lines)
	(min. 3 cm)
Appointments	12.50
Commercial and Industrial Property	12.00
Saturday Property	6.00
Residential Property	9.50
Business Opportunities	13.00
Real Estate	44.00

for Sales Wanted	12.00	41.00
	9.50	32.00
for Travel	8.00	27.00

Business for Services	12.00	41.00
Personal	9.50	32.00
Motor Car Travel	8.80	33.25

Contracts, Tenders	12.00	31.00
Book Page	—	41.00
Panel	—	22.00
	—	30.00

Premium positions available £9 per Single Column cm extra (Min 30 cms).

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**Continued on next page**



## 16

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[illegible]



**INDUSTRIALS—Continued**[illegible]

30	Medical Research	38	2	1
180	Metal Box	191	7	1

76	W. H. Moore	150	128	22
77	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
78	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
79	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
80	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
81	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
82	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
83	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
84	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
85	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
86	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
87	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
88	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
89	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
90	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
91	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
92	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
93	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
94	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
95	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
96	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
97	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
98	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
99	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22
100	Wm. A. J. Jones	150	128	22

163	Platoni Int.	263	-2	3.39	3.2
113	Pharos Hldgs. Sp.	265	-11	193.0	2.4

[illegible]

184	Talbot Sp	272	-1	19/3	24	6
7	Talbot Sp	35	+2	1	-	-
106	Talbot Sp	195	-10	11/3	23	1

[illegible]

E221	Oy Wartsila AB FM60	E321	-5.1	Q13%	8.4	3.1
62	Waterford Glass Sp	95		206.2%	2.0	3.1

[illegible]

## INSURANCES

[illegible]



## 19

**MINES—Continued**[illegible]

Medtronic 100 .....	142	-3	
Powers Gold 100 02..	65	..	

[illegible]

Figures based on prospectus or other  
 dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital  
 in full capital. e. Redemption yield. f. Full

[illegible]

is a selection of Regional and Irish music  
 as well as Irish current.

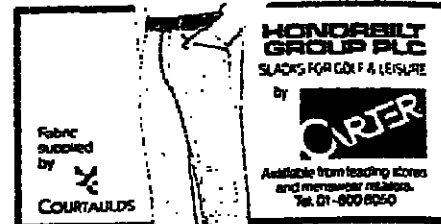
[illegible]

50	TSB
50	Tesco
28	

[illegible]



Saturday October 24 1987



## Superpowers fail to agree arms summit date

By Patrick Cockburn in Moscow

THE SOVIET UNION and the US yesterday failed to reach agreement on a date for a summit meeting between Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, and President Ronald Reagan.

Mr Gorbachev told Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, he was not satisfied that enough progress had been made towards an understanding on the President's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme. However, he still held out hope that he would visit Washington later this year.

Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said: "I

am sorry to say that the American delegation did not show willingness for talks on a constructive basis on anti-ballistic missiles. Talks on this subject just did not work out."

Mr Shevardnadze said later that Mr Gorbachev had made a new offer on strategic arms limitation during his talks with Mr Shultz. He said Moscow regarded the question of a 50 per cent cut in offensive strategic missiles and the maintenance of the ABM treaty as the cardinal issue in Soviet-American relations.

Earlier, Mr Shultz had said

that Mr Gorbachev had told him he would be sending a letter to President Reagan soon, but that he did not know its contents.

Failure to set a date for a summit came at the end of two days of intensive negotiations in Moscow between Mr Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze. It marks a significant setback in the dialogue on arms control between the superpowers.

However, Mr Shultz did succeed in agreeing on almost all points at issue on an agreement to abolish intermediate nuclear forces. Apart from some remaining issues on verification "we are virtually there as re-

gards an INF agreement," Mr Shultz said last night.

The Soviet position is that it cannot agree to limit the number of its offensive nuclear missiles unless the US agrees to restrict research and testing under the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty for at least 10 years.

Mr Shultz said the "critical difference" between the two sides concerned the period during which the US and the Soviet Union would pledge themselves not to withdraw from the ABM treaty.

"The length of time the Soviets have proposed is longer

than ours," he said. Another disagreement between the two sides was over what should be allowed to take place during the non-withdrawal period.

Mr Shultz said repeatedly last night that the president was not prepared to give up SDI research and development.

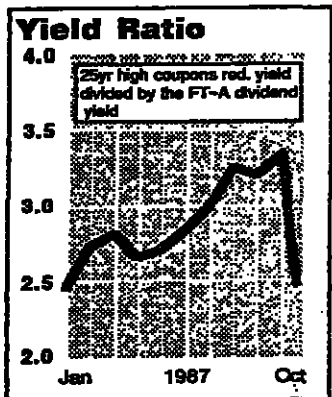
Mr Gorbachev's refusal to go to Washington comes as a surprise because the INF agreement was previously seen as the main Soviet pre-requisite for a summit.

Soviet generals killed in air crash, Page 2

## THE LEX COLUMN

# Waiting for the President

On the surface, the week which started in such drastic fashion ended rather quietly. The FTSE index prodded the 1,750 resistance line and recovered, poor old BP produced a token 4p rise and Wall Street was rock steady. London's closing fall of 38 points was only an average bad day by pre-crash standards. One had to recall that the morning had seen a base rate cut and a good set of trade figures - both major events in normal times - to appreciate the currents below the surface.



For the week as a whole, the most puzzling question is still why the fall in prices was telescoped in such an unprecedented way. Recent developments in trading systems in London and New York will have played a part, as did the advent of 24-hour equity trading round the world. But it will take time and anxious study to establish just why the markets went into a spiral of bigger and bigger crashes around the time zones, and whether this new and unwelcome feature of the global market is here to stay.

In London at least, however, it should now be possible to return to basic concepts of value. The last five years have seen an ultimately irrational concentration on capital gains, in the form of equities and property, rather than on income. This week saw the shattering of confidence in the inevitability of rising prices, but the pay-off was the restoration of confidence in techniques of fundamental valuation, which lost favour in the last year or two because the values they produced were always too low.

The White House, which has been fighting a losing battle this week to calm fears in the financial markets, said the latest figures provided reassuring evidence of strong growth and the valuation risk out of the system will now have to expand by only 2.1 per cent in the fourth quarter to reach the official target for 1987 of 3.2 per cent.

Repercussions  
The managers of Eurotunnel still seem confident that they will be able to raise £750m of equity next month, but there was evidence yesterday that a growing number of other ambitious business ventures around the world are falling prey to the collapse in share prices. Merrill Lynch took the unusual step of withdrawing at a very advanced stage, an A\$1bn convertible bond issue for Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Resources, and Jardine Matheson scrapped plans to buy a 20 per cent stake in Bear Stearns, the New York investment bank. Although its share price is trading at roughly half the \$23 a share that Jardine offered to pay a few weeks ago, Bear Stearns was clearly upset that Jardine did not have the same confidence in its business as it did itself, and was muttering yesterday about possible legal action to make Jardine honour its side of the bargain.

There is only logic in the move if it is part of an agreed international policy. The US must inject liquidity into the financial system to avoid the bank collapses that followed the 1929 crash, with the result that interest rates are lower than they should be. Therefore rates elsewhere must be cut if the dollar is to have any chance of holding its own. The flaw is that West Germany and Japan are far less willing than the UK appears to be to risk their domestic monetary policy, either by cutting rates or supporting the dollar heavily. And the UK's cut will only prove worthwhile if President Reagan can rapidly convince the markets that he

will reduce the budget deficit soon, something he has so far failed to do.

Should the dollar start falling sharply again the outlook is bleak: after all, it was the fear of that happening which sparked off the crash. US bonds, which have gained enormously this week from the flight to quality, could quickly reverse to discount higher inflation. And a weakening currency would put paid to any lingering hopes that foreign buyers will come in to buy the forthcoming quarterly refunding. The deadline for decisive action by President Reagan is alarmingly close.

As the full impact of the drop in share prices makes itself felt, similar business schemes hatched in the heady days of a roaring worldwide bull market will begin to be unscrambled. Among the most obvious casualties are the heavily geared corporate raiders from down under, most of whom have disappeared from sight in recent days with the crumbling of their share prices. However, they have left a number of strategic investments on the table. Mr Holmes a Court, for example, has major stakes in Texaco, BHP and Standard Chartered, and the withdrawal of his convertible bond issue is likely to put pressure on him to begin selling assets to continue financing his positions. This could be why Standard Chartered's share price slumped yesterday.

## UK current account deficit falls sharply

By Janet Bush

BRITAIN'S current account deficit narrowed sharply to £55m last month from £225m in August, an improvement achieved through buoyant exports, particularly by manufacturers, and lower imports.

Although it is difficult to assess underlying trends in the trade performance because of the erratic nature of monthly trade reports, City economists believe the current account deficit for this year will be around £1.5bn to £1.6bn, substantially below the Budget forecast of £2.5bn, and that it should not act as a constraint on policy.

They see yesterday's figures as evidence that the economy is not overheating, as was widely believed earlier this year, and as giving some scope for yesterday's half-point cut in base lending rates.

## Tokyo market suffers steep fall

By Stefan Wagstyl in Tokyo and Steven Butler in London

THE TOKYO stock exchange yesterday led Far Eastern equity markets in a steep decline following Thursday's fall on Wall Street, but European markets reacted more calmly and prices closed mixed or moderately down.

Tokyo suffered its second-largest decline ever and traders said President Reagan had failed to calm financial markets during his televised press conference early yesterday.

Bond prices swung wildly in response to a nervous mood in the equity market and to contradictory reports of peace moves in the Iran-Iraq war. The yield on the benchmark 89th issue 5.1 per cent 1996 bond closing at 5.590 per cent, was down 0.08 per cent on the day.

The Nikkei index of leading stocks fell 233.22 points to close at 23,201.22. This wiped out half the recovery in Tokyo in the last two days and left the index 12 per cent below last Friday's closing prices.

Foreign investors were among the biggest sellers, followed by Japanese individuals, some of whom plunged into the market after Tuesday's fall in the hope of making quick profits.

Japanese institutional investors mostly continued to stay away. Mr Shigeru Takara, manager of international business planning at Norinchukin Bank, said: "We are still waiting to see what will happen."

Mr Junichi Nishiwaki, an economist at Mitsubishi Bank, said it would take time for markets to settle, especially if President Reagan's precise intentions in dealing with the US budget deficit remained unclear and if the position in the Gulf remained unstable.

The bearish mood in Tokyo was echoed strongly in Singapore and Australia, where waves of selling took market indices on the day down 11 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Singapore and Australia were

among the world's hardest hit markets during the week, with the Singapore Straits Times index falling 30 per cent and the Australian All Ordinaries index plummeting 41 per cent since last Friday.

The normal 6 1/2 hour trading session in Johannesburg was shortened to four hours and prices moved down throughout the session. The stock exchange all gold index closed off 12 per cent on the week at 2,018, with the industrial index off 18.6 per cent at 1,844.

Frankfurt closed mixed in a relatively quiet session, with trading on West German shares ending at the normal hour for the first time in the week, which saw an overall 11 per cent decline in the market. Trading on equity warrants and foreign shares was extended for 30 minutes.

Prices swung erratically in nervous trading in Paris and Zurich and closed marginally down on the day in both markets.

## US growth rate rises to 3.8% but exports fall

By Lionel Barber in Washington

THE US economy grew by a robust annual rate of 3.8 per cent in the third quarter of this year but the volume of exports fell, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

Concern over the US trade performance was a key factor in this week's record stock market slump. The \$5.2bn (£3.1bn) deterioration in the July-September period, largely due to a huge jump in oil imports, was the first setback in place inflation-adjusted trade deficit for three consecutive quarters.

The 3.8 per cent growth in the gross national product - the broadest measure of output of goods and services - was boosted by a modest 0.2 per cent rise in consumer prices in September.

The White House, which has been fighting a losing battle this week to calm fears in the financial markets, said the latest figures provided reassuring evidence of strong growth and the valuation risk out of the system will now have to expand by only 2.1 per cent in the fourth quarter to reach the official target for 1987 of 3.2 per cent.

However, Mr David Wyes, a leading economist, said: "Right now, the chief worry is a recession, and if there's a recession, inflation won't be going up."

The third quarter GNP figures, while preliminary, were up from 2.5 per cent growth in the April-June quarter and represented the fastest rise since the 4.4 per cent increase in the first three months of the year.

Consumer spending rose 4.8 per cent, or \$29.5bn (£17.6bn), while business investment jumped 23.7 per cent, the steepest rise in three years. Much of this rise was attributed to oil stockpiling, which government economists argue has distorted the trade picture.

The seasonally-adjusted value of imports of goods and services increased by \$21.3bn, compared with \$14.2bn in the second quarter. Some \$18.3bn of the rise amounted to imports of oil and oil products, the Commerce Department said.

The seasonally-adjusted value of exports fell by \$3.2bn between July and September, compared with an increase of \$2.5bn in the second. The fall in trade volume appears to confirm there has been a slight fall in the value of exports of manufactured goods, in spite of the decline in the value of the dollar against the yen and D-Mark.

## Bill will extend union reform

By Philip Bassett, Labour Editor

PROPOSALS in the 1987 Employment Bill, published yesterday, make it clear that the Government intends to extend significantly its proposals for further trade union reform. At the same time, the introduction of controversial measures on union discipline and on cutting young non-trainees' benefits are still planned.

The Bill, the Government's fourth employment law since 1974, was published yesterday. It contains proposals to extend the scope of the law to cover more workers, to strengthen union discipline, and to cut benefits for young non-trainees.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, said the Bill - the Government's fourth piece of legislation on this issue - marked "another milestone in the step-by-step process of trade union reform." He warned, too, that its publication did not signal the end of that process: "There are other areas where we might wish to look again in the coming years."

It is main proposals, which are likely to become law by next summer, were highlighted before the election. They include a requirement that all union elections be conducted by independent scrutineers; postal ballots; an insistence that ballots be held on all strikes; that elections be held for both voting and non-voting union executive members; and that a new commissioner for union members' rights be established.

Ministers defended the most controversial proposals, which would give union members the right not to be disciplined by their leaders for refusing to take part even in lawful strikes or for crossing picket lines.

Employers' groups such as the Confederation of British Industry or the Engineering Employers' Federation are opposed to these proposals, although the Institute of Directors and Aims for Industry welcomed them.

The Bill abandons some of the more minor suggestions outlined in a green paper earlier this year, but it introduces a number of unheralded measures. These include widening the commissioner's powers, enabling the Government to issue statutory codes of practice on union balloting and elections, and requiring unions which intend to organise industrial action to ballot separately each working day which contains members entitled to vote.

One effect of this could be to curtail the widespread union tactic of selective strike action. The Bill includes a number of labour market measures: re-organising the Manpower Services Commission, expanding the number of employers on it, and withdrawing benefits from young people who refuse government training scheme places.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said the bill was a "contemptuous of unions and an insult to democracy." Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, said it would result in "wildcat strikes and would worsen industrial relations."

Young jobless to lose benefits, Page 4  
Details, Page 5

## Dollar plunges Continued from Page 1

dermined the Chancellor's staunch defence by attacking Congressional spending and appealing to Congress to stand with him against raising taxes.

The London stock market managed two brief rallies during an otherwise depressed session. News of a sharply narrower British current account deficit last month of £55m compared with August's shortfall of £225m sparked moderate buying but the interest was short-lived.

A small recovery was then

triggered when the Bank of England cut its money market dealing rates by a half percentage point, signalling its desire to see base lending rates down at 9.5 per cent.

British banks were quick to follow the authorities' lead, but the cut in the base rate did not lead to a break in normal full session.

From early gains of another two points, bonds fell back below their opening levels and the pound closed down 1.54p on the day. A stronger than expected figure for third quarter US gross national product and a modest rate of inflation in September had little impact.

An increasing number of economists believe that this week's upheaval in financial markets will slow economic growth and reduce inflation.

On the New York Stock Exchange declining issues outnumbered the number advancing by a ratio of five-to-three. But sentiment appeared to be relatively neutral with few people willing to build up new positions ahead of the weekend. Institutional investors in particular kept a low profile.

## Continued from Page 1 Piggott

tra cash payments to the jockey.

In 1985 a copy of the letter was leaked to the press. This document caused Customs and Excise to suspect that Piggott had received payments which he had not disclosed and it triggered the investigations.

Mr Piggott catalogued other streams of income from the UK and abroad which Piggott had not declared on tax returns. Many were set out in a report prepared by Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, in August, 1986, and produced in court.

Mr John Mathew, QC, representing Piggott, described his client as "one of the world's greatest sporting personalities, probably in all of history," who commanded adulation and respect in the racing world. "Racing became for him physically and mentally a total and obsessive occupation to which his dedication was supreme," said Mr Mathew.

However, aside from racing, Piggott was a "limited intelligence." A medical report was produced which said his intellect could have been lowered further by brain damage from injuries sustained through his long career and which had possibly affected his judgment.

"He has few real friends, and even those few do not feel that they really know him, and, certainly at times, find it impossible to understand his thinking, reactions, and behaviour," said Mr Mathew.

Coming soon: the best investment opportunity for years.

Turn to page III of Weekend for Gartmore's commentary on the events of this week.

## CHIEF LONDON PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISERS			FALLS		
Treas. 10% Govt 2003/7	116.5	+ 231	Incheape	610	- 70
ASDA-MFI	185	+ 10	Legal & General	263	- 20
Cookson	583	+ 19	Morgan Grenfell	349	- 49
De La Rue	254	+ 37	Redland	412	- 35
Granada	282	+ 16	Rothmans	371	- 38
Appleyard	268	- 52	Royal Insurance	413	- 32
BOC Group	295	- 23	Smith New Court	210	- 20
Bunzl	254	- 14	Taylor Woodrow	228	- 52
Cable & Wireless	313	- 40	United Newspapers	423	- 41
English China Clays	430	- 30	WPP Group	580	- 83
Harrisons & Cros.	480	- 50	Warburg (S.G.)	358	- 40

## WORLDWIDE WEATHER

	Yday	Today	Yday	Today	Yday	Today	Yday	Today			
	midday	midday	midday	midday	midday	midday	midday	midday			
Africa	F	24	75	Dallas	F	17	63	Moscow	F	22	72
Algeria	F	21	74	Dublin	F	17	63	Munich	F	22	72
Amman	F	21	74	Edinburgh	F	17	63	Nairobi	F	22	72
Baghdad	F	21	74	Geneva	F	17	63	Rangoon	F	22	72
Bangkok	F	21	74	Helsinki	F	17	63	Seoul	F	22	72
Bombay	F	21	74	Istanbul	F	17	63	Singapore	F	22	72
Buenos Aires	F	21	74	London	F	17	63	Taipei	F	22	72
Calcutta	F	21	74	Madrid	F	17	63	Tokyo	F	22	72
Cairo	F	21	74	Manila	F	17	63	Yokohama	F	22	72
Chongqing	F	21	74	Osaka	F	17	63				
Cebu	F	21	74	Shanghai	F	17	63				
Colon	F	21	74	Tientsin	F	17	63				
Hankow	F	21	74	Wuhan	F	17	63				
Harbin	F	21	74	Zhangjiakou	F	17	63				
Hong Kong	F	21	74								
Kobe	F	21	74								
London	F	21	74								
Lyons	F	21	74								
Manila	F	21	74								
Medan	F	21	74								
Meppen	F	21	74								
Moscow	F	21	74								
Mumbai	F	21	74								
Nairobi	F	21	74								
Seoul	F	21	74								
Singapore	F	21	74								
Taipei	F	21	74								
Tokyo	F	21	74								
Yokohama	F	21	74								



# WEEKEND FT

October 24/25 1987

MARKETS • FINANCE &amp; THE FAMILY • PROPERTY • TRAVEL • MOTORING • DIVERSIONS • HOW TO SPEND IT • BOOKS • ARTS • TV

## The message of the markets

SOMETHING happened in financial markets this week that many commentators and analysts would have judged almost impossible. Share prices on Wall Street fell more than 500 points in a single session, shattering even the records set in the Great Crash of 1929.

The subsequent see-saw recovery of stock markets is hardly reassuring. The fact that 20 per cent of the value of a nation's equities can be wiped out in one or two days trading is thoroughly unnerving, whether or not a sizeable proportion of the fall is eventually made good. The scale and swiftness of the decline are hallmarks of extreme financial instability. There can be no easy return to "business as usual".

Share prices after all have fallen continuously. The Dow Jones index rebounded strongly from the initial crash in October 1929; by April 1930 it was above its level of December 1929. The three-day plunge was merely an omen of what was to come: stock prices slumped by 80 per cent between September 1930 and June 1932. And, as the history books relate, the world was devastated by a depression that lasted the best part of a decade.

In 1933, US gross national product was nearly a third lower than in 1929. Unemployment soared to 25 per cent of the workforce. It was not until 1941 that the dollar value of production—both to strengthen the welfare state and to stabilise the economy—went largely unchallenged.

The 1929 Great Crash, can thus be interpreted as an historical turning point of enormous significance. The question is whether the extraordinary gyrations of share prices this week will eventually be seen in a similar light. Are they the harbingers of some quite radical political and economic changes? Or are they merely a temporary "correction" of a market that has been overvalued and overbought? The latter view is the one favoured by the US authorities, who are equally eager to dismiss historical parallels. A smiling, thumbs-up Ronald Reagan, who has lost more than 20 per cent in a single day and 30 per cent inside a week. Eat your heart out, Vancouver.

Of course, it all happened to grandfathered stock in 1929. But that was because of inadequate stock market regulation, rampant speculation and inept economic management. They handle such things much better these days — don't they?

There will be many losers from the past week's remarkable shakeout, but the principle of wider share ownership could be one of the main victims of the great collapse.

It is true that by permitting the man in the street to apply for stock valued at as little as 20¢ the Government has allowed this offer to appear as something of a pin money lifeline rather than a serious opportunity for investment (much as it did with BAA, where the allotments were worth a princely £146).

But the political priority has been to get as many people as possible on to the list of shareholders. Already the claimed number of investors owning one or more shares has jumped from 2m to 9m in four years. In itself, it is quite an impressive achievement. Now, however, these newcomers need to adjust to the harsher life of a shareholder outside the cosy conditions of a long bull market.

The first lesson is that modern equity markets are subject to occasional corrections of quite terrifying speed. Even the experts closest to the scene are

have been an accurate barometer of approaching storms in the real world of jobs, offices and factories. But this week's mayhem was something rather different.

It was (say the apologists) more a consequence of the type of trading systems we now possess than a measure of real-world economic tensions. It was a reflection of the breathtaking speed with which information—and hence doubts and uncertainties—can be relayed around the globe. Electronic wizardry and a world market that never sleeps allowed the initial alarm caused by minor economic policy differences in the US and West Germany to be rapidly ballooned out of all proportion.

The upshot of this kind of reassuring reasoning is that politicians ought to be

**Michael Prowse analyses the crash and forecasts a loss of confidence in laissez faire economics**

more careful not to row in public, and that trading systems in the world's equity markets could benefit from some cautious reforms. What the apologist line does not concede is that the world economy is experiencing strains comparable to those of the late 1920s. A re-writing of stock market record books, they say, is not warranted by the present economic "fundamentals".

The trouble with this argument is that collapses of 20 per cent a day in equity values are not taking place in a vacuum. They are not occurring in an economic world otherwise characterised by great stability.

During the 1980s, we have seen the dollar (and the pound) soar to absurdly inflated levels and then plunge. (The dollar has lost more than 40 per cent of its international value since February 1985). Oil prices have risen well above \$30 a barrel and plummeted to under \$10 before recovering to around \$20. Interest rates have ridden a similar roller-coaster. And commodity prices have sunk to lows not seen since the 1930s before staging a very modest rally in the past year.

The gyrations of exchange rates, interest rates and key prices have accompanied grave economic imbalances. Developing countries have fallen chronically into debt and now owe the First World more than \$1 trillion.

At the same time, great swathes of the industrialised world remain blighted by unemployment; more than

31m people are jobless in the rich countries monitored by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

More directly relevant for the stock market gyrations, though, are the chronic trade imbalances that continue to plague the leading economic powers. Dollar devaluation has done little so far to curb the US's \$150bn trade deficit. The world's biggest economic power, a secure creditor nation for most of this century, is now accumulating foreign debt at a rate that even the cautious IMF in Washington concedes is quite unsustainable. At the same time, Japan and West Germany are making only small-like progress in reducing their embarrassingly large external surpluses.

The imbalances owe something to Reagan's "spend now, pay later" policy of reckless tax cuts, which swelled the US Government deficit early in the 1980s. But they also reflect nearly a decade of Scrooge-like austerity in Japan and West Germany.

Given the duration and intractability of the world's many economic problems, financial markets might have been expected to remain somewhat subdued during the 1980s. Not a bit of it. Stock markets, cheered by the fall in inflation and interest rates bought temporarily by slow growth and much higher unemployment, have been leaping for joy for the past five years. Share prices roughly tripled in value on the major bourses between 1982 and early 1987.

It would thus be hard to write a better script for extreme volatility in financial markets. The dizzy climb of share prices (until the recent sell-off) occurred in the face of unprecedented economic imbalances — on the foreign exchanges, in the Third World, and in labour markets — and despite the instability of almost every key economic indicator from exchange rates to commodity prices. Against this background, and in the face of the US's diminishing credibility as a borrower, it is surely unnecessary to seek arcane, technical explanations for this week's equity roller-coaster. Nor, on unchanged policies, is there any reason to suppose that it will not be repeated.

There is, as John Kenneth Galbraith argued in *The Great Crash*, "an essential unity in economic phenomena; no Chinese Wall separates the fiduciary from the real". Stock markets do not exist in a vacuum. They are a barometer of the real economy. They are an important leading indicator. The collapse of prices this week, even though partially reversed, is thus saying something about the state of the economy.

But what? Almost nobody believes in the possibility of a second Great Depression. This is because lessons have been learned. On Tuesday, the US Federal Reserve (the central bank) lost no time in announcing that it was "ready to serve as a source of liquidity to support the economic and financial system". It acted aggressively to push down short-term interest rates, signalling, but sensible, reversal of its policy of recent months.

There used to be quite a few professional investors who fancied their skills at the top and bottom of the stock market — the Americans classify them as "market timers". Most of them have burst their fingers badly over the past few years.

In the UK the most celebrated roasting of the market timers took place in January 1975. Over the New Year, fund managers who had switched out of equities into cash and gold were revelling in their huge outperformance for calendar 1974 compared with their less enterprising rivals who had stayed more or less fully invested.

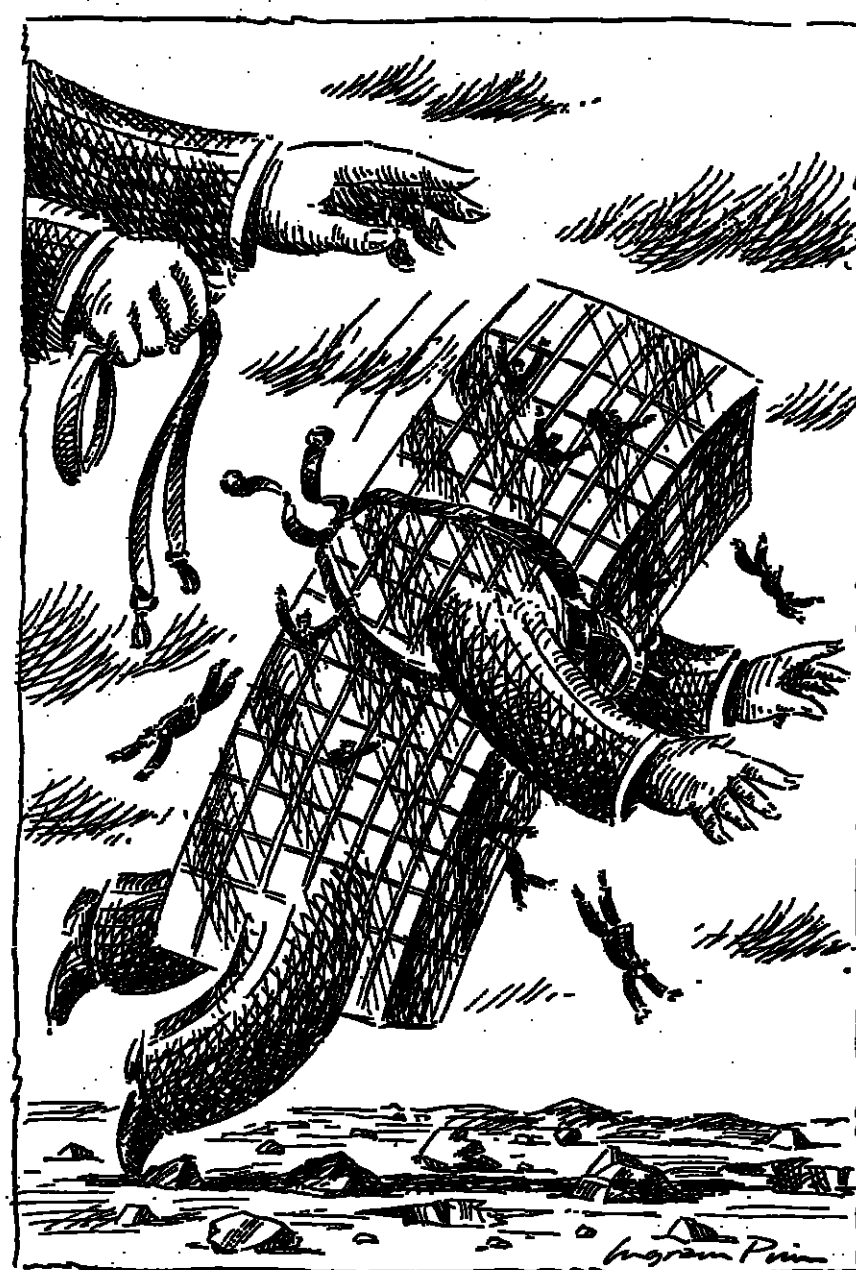
Then the market doubled within a few weeks, the market timers found it impossible to get back in, and paid a heavy price in lost clientele.

More recently the American market showed a rather similar (if less extreme) turn of speed when the US equity market took off like a rocket in August 1982 and the Dow Jones Average put on 38 per cent in 10 weeks.

Now we have to face the implications of the abrupt crash, which was alarming enough in the US where it originated, and in some ways more so in other countries to which it was so swiftly transmitted through the technological marvels of the global equity market.

In the UK it came pretty well out of a clear blue sky. This week's turmoil has shown that in extreme circumstances modern markets do not rise and fall, they move more or less instantaneously to quite different levels.

Even if an investor is quick on the uptake he probably will not be able to get through to his unit trust company or his



Central bankers around the world are acutely conscious that, from the cyclical point of economic activity, August 1929 to the trough in spring 1933, the US money stock fell by a third. Many Keynesians argue that this dramatic reduction in the money supply was the most important cause of the Great Depression. If the Federal Reserve had prevented the monetary contraction, they argue, the Great Crash would be remembered as no more than a minor stock market correction that correctly signalled a modest business downturn.

In the 1980s, one would hope that even the ultra-cautious West German central bank would take all possible steps to avert unacceptably slow growth of the money stock, let alone an absolute contraction. And if for any reason, the monetary instrument proved ineffective, even High Church monetarists would surely swallow their pride and call for the classic Keynesian remedy of higher government borrowing and

spending to counteract a private sector slump. We know today what we did not know in the 1930s: that a 33 per cent contraction of output is not something that has to be endured passively. However, if this week's market crash does not presage another Great Depression, it might still represent a turning point in the history of ideas. Turnout on the foreign exchanges has already convinced even an instinctive libertarian like Lawson that these markets "need managing". The whirlwind volatility of bourses should reinforce the message of market fallibility. Share price falls of 20 per cent in a day make a mockery of academic claims that stock markets are "efficient". And it is significant that they occurred in the aftermath of another failed effort at international economic "co-operation".

Markets are beginning to react like the family dog that slips the lead. At first, the freedom leads to euphoria. This is followed by misbehaviour. The

final stage is fright and a search for the warmth and security provided by the owner. Some politicians may still believe in laissez faire, but the message from the markets is that a bit of guidance and restraint would not come amiss.

It might, therefore, be that economic policy is in the process of turning full circle. The post-war economic system was designed by people who had endured the chaos of the 1930s. They may have erred too far on the side of controls and constraints on markets — although it is at least arguable that the "golden era" of trade expansion was possible only because the regime governing capital flows was so liberal.

It now seems increasingly clear, however, that the reaction against government intervention and managed markets in the 1970s and early 1980s went too far. There was a pervasive retreat from responsibility.

This is evident in both domestic and international economic management. The Bretton Woods system of semi-fixed exchange rates, for example, was bound to break down sooner or later because it placed too much strain on the US as an anchor for the world monetary system. But rather than establishing a new more flexible system that distributed burdens more evenly, governments in the 1970s threw in the sponge. They said, in effect: "We cannot handle exchange rates so let's leave them to the markets".

Increasingly, difficulties in handling inflation led to a similar over-reaction in domestic economies. After decades of balancing the competing requirements of growth, employment, and price stability, many governments simply abandoned the first two responsibilities. Adopting the rhetoric of monetarism, they claimed that macroeconomic policy could be used only to control inflation. Growth and employment, ran the argument, were things that governments could influence if at all only indirectly — by deregulating and liberalising markets.

If the tide of ideas is beginning to turn, it is only because the new policies have not been sufficiently successful. "Floating" — or market determined — currencies were supposed to stabilise the foreign exchanges and insulate countries from the policy mistakes of their neighbours. They did no such thing. What happened is that nations were given the freedom to follow mutually inconsistent policies for longer than ever before. The US could never have got into its present parlous condition under a regime of restricted capital flows and properly managed exchange rates.

Hands off policies have been equally unsuccessful in other spheres. If governments had not abrogated responsibility for the recycling of Opec surpluses in the 1970s, would the Third World debt crisis be as severe today? More controversially, if US member governments had been more prepared to accept direct macroeconomic responsibility for employment, would the commission in Brussels today be despairing over a jobless rate of 12 per cent?

The sharpest falls in share prices for six decades, extreme turbulence on foreign exchange markets and unprecedented world macroeconomic imbalances are broadcasting a very clear message to policy-makers. It is not that all will be well if the US, Japan and West Germany can kiss and make up in the short-run. It is the lesson of the 1930s: that markets are extremely useful servants but headstrong, unreliable and ultimately disastrous masters.

### The Long View

## Tough lessons for small investors

Barry Riley looks at the shakeout in the equity markets and considers whether the principle of wider share ownership could be one of the main victims of the great collapse



It is true that by permitting the man in the street to apply for stock valued at as little as 20¢ the Government has allowed this offer to appear as something of a pin money lifeline rather than a serious opportunity for investment (much as it did with BAA, where the allotments were worth a princely £146).

But the political priority has been to get as many people as possible on to the list of shareholders. Already the claimed number of investors owning one or more shares has jumped from 2m to 9m in four years. In itself, it is quite an impressive achievement. Now, however, these newcomers need to adjust to the harsher life of a shareholder outside the cosy conditions of a long bull market.

The first lesson is that modern equity markets are subject to occasional corrections of quite terrifying speed. Even the experts closest to the scene are

unable to predict the timing (though plenty of people have been saying in general terms that the equity market has risen dangerously high this year).

There used to be quite a few professional investors who fancied their skills at the top and bottom of the stock market — the Americans classify them as "market timers". Most of them have burst their fingers badly over the past few years.

In the UK the most celebrated roasting of the market timers took place in January 1975. Over the New Year, fund managers who had switched out of equities into cash and gold were revelling in their huge outperformance for calendar 1974 compared with their less enterprising rivals who had stayed more or less fully invested.

Then the market doubled within a few weeks, the market timers found it impossible to get back in, and paid a heavy price in lost clientele.

More recently the American market showed a rather similar (if less extreme) turn of speed when the US equity market took off like a rocket in August 1982 and the Dow Jones Average put on 38 per cent in 10 weeks.

Now we have to face the implications of the abrupt crash, which was alarming enough in the US where it originated, and in some ways more so in other countries to which it was so swiftly transmitted through the technological marvels of the global equity market.

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In the UK it came pretty well out of a clear blue sky. This week's turmoil has shown that in extreme circumstances modern markets do not rise and fall, they move more or less instantaneously to quite different levels.

Even if an investor is quick on the uptake he probably will not be able to get through to his unit trust company or his

stockbroker. If he gets that far, he will find it impossible to deal at sensible prices. And it may be that the whole market will simply shut up shop, as Hong Kong did this week.

At one level, this presents a splendid opportunity for building societies to place full-page advertisements urging savers to take whatever money they have left out of the stock market, casino and deposit it in a Rock Solid Instant Access Account.

At another, it may cause the Government to pause for thought about the desirability of its wider share ownership campaign. Encouraging relatively wealthy individuals to commit part of their assets to long-term stock market investment is one thing, but luring many millions into the market on the promise of instant profits is another. It could prove counterproductive.

In that sense the Government has arguably had a narrow escape over the BP issue, but the unit trust industry may not have done in relation to its own marketing campaigns. The 224th "Royal Event" has, for instance, blundered right into the market slump.

There is a fundamental problem here. The unit trust industry is always its own worst enemy, selling hardest and making its biggest profits on the eve of a market collapse.

It is a matter of the difference between being an adviser and a salesman. Where as the former will advise caution when markets are high the salesman will cash in on his opportunity. For his products will sell best when they have a good recent growth record (ie they are expensive). Which is not to deny that, over a long enough period, the equity market has delivered excellent returns. But if you now feel that you no longer dare go away for a long weekend, you can take it that you are overcommitted.

## GOLD RUSH?

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TOP UNIT TRUST — YEAR TO 1st OCTOBER 1987

"The Golden Touch from Waverley — Waverley Australian Gold again comfortably out-distanced the rest..." (Daily Telegraph 3.10.87)

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We enclose our cheque for £ Payable to Waverley Asset Management Ltd. To be invested in Accumulation Units of the Australian Gold Fund, at the price ruling on the date of receipt. (MIN £400)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Up to 4 joint applicants may apply. All must sign and attach names and addresses accurately. Registered in Scotland 85764. Reg. Office at above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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### BONUS OFFER

During this offer, investments of £2,000 or over will receive a 1% Unit bonus — the cost will be borne by the Managers. OFFER OF UNITS AT 51.3p (or at the daily price if lower). PRICE FIXED UNTIL FRIDAY, 30th OCTOBER 1987, at 3.30 pm. If the price rises by more than 2 1/2%, the Managers will close the offer and deal at the higher price.

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## • MARKETS •

for a difficult day, made doubly so by the lack of trading on Friday. But no one was prepared for the scale and rapidity of the collapse.

At one point Footsie had shed a full 300 points before a modest rally left it to close down 250 — a loss of more than 10 per cent in just a few hours, far outstripping London's previous record fall of 7 per cent on March 1, 1974.

Tuesday brought no respite. London again took its mood

from Wall Street, which had closed down by more than 500 points overnight, and Footsie ended the day a further 250 down. But Tuesday brought a fresh unsettling element — the market did not merely move one way, but gyrated wildly up and down within a band a full 250 points wide.

The next day, when the aftermath of the hurricane stopped any real trading in London, the mood on Wall Street turned very ugly, and the weekend's financial markets of mood took root in the US: the great bull run was over.

By Monday, therefore, market makers in London were braced one way, but gyrated wildly up and down within a band a full 250 points wide.

Wednesday was a day for rallying, on both sides of the Atlantic, with Footsie ending the week around 1640. But on Thursday, when the markets had been widely expected to start settling down, they plunged again and Footsie

ended the day at 1833, down  
110.

Yesterday brought rather calmer conditions to London — though the movements were huge by past standards — with nerves soothed by a good set of trade figures and a half point cut in base rates engineered by the Monetary Committee.

At the root of the worldwide collapse in equity values lay the sudden change of sentiment on Wall Street over the health of the US economy. The aft reiterated fears that the huge American trade deficit would lead to still further falls in the dollar, rising inflation and a consequent US monetary policy, leading to recession, finally struck a chord.

And however strong the British economy might be, compared to others, this could be no real hedge for London against a downturn as savage as that seen on Wall Street, particularly in a world where international equity markets are so closely linked.

At the same time, the downturn also prompted a more fundamental revaluation of UK shares. These, it is worth remembering, enjoyed an extraordinary rise of nearly 50 per cent from the start of this year to the market's peak in mid-July, while corporate earnings growth was far more modest.

**FT-A All-Share Index**

Apr. 10, 1982=100

Year	Index Value (approx.)
1973	180
1974	100
1975	150
1976	130
1977	200
1978	220
1979	250
1980	300
1981	250
1982	350
1983	450
1984	500
1985	750
1986	850
1987	1250

And that was on top of a 20 per cent rise in the indices in 1986.

For many months the more bearish—and long-remembered—of City analysts had been shaking their heads and arguing that the traditional investment fundamentals, such as price/earnings ratios and the yield gap between gilts and equities, in the London equity market was over-valued, along with the other major world exchanges. The truth needed blowing off as long as share prices kept rising, or at least marching sideways, the Cassandra did not have a very responsive

While equities spent the week plunging downwards in search of a new equilibrium, very different scenes were taking place in the gilts market—and indeed in the wider international bond markets.

bonds were suddenly back in fashion. For one thing, the safety of fixed interest securities seemed a natural home for at least part of the funds that were being hoarded in the money market. For another, the focus of American concern shifted away from inflation (where anxiety was now concentrated on price-cost overruns) and towards recession.

Gifts appeared as resilient, thanks to the relative strength of the economy and, at the same time, the diminishing public sector borrowing requirement and the still modest level of inflation (though there were some poor cases of cash and cash equivalents quickly buried by the confusion of the markets).

Even before yesterday's hike in interest rates had been announced, the market was plunging in equities, means that new and ordinary shares are now back somewhere approach

ing their traditional relationship. During the turmoil of the past five days the Footsie index has on several occasions fallen to around 1,750, but it has always rallied at around that level, which some analysts regard as an important floor.

That is still 71 points above the level at which the index entered 1987. And as Nicholas Knight, of the family average fund, points out, the ratio between the yield on long bonds and equities has now been cut to under 2.5, compared to 3.24 on October 2, a severe fall on average of 1.5 points over the same period of 1.9. He argues that an examination of the fundamentals replaces the panic the market will be seen to have around this time, with scope for a gradual recovery back towards 2,000.

**Martin Dickson**

## LAST WEEK'S FALLS

The following table shows the percentage change in the FT 30-share index and its constituents over the past week. The FT-SE 100 index is also shown.

	Price yester- day	% change 15/10/87	1987 High	1987 Low		Price last Thurs	Change last week	1987 High	1987 Low
FT Ord Ind	1396.8	-22.0	1592.2	1359.2	Grand Nat	421	-24.4	497	429
ASDA-MFI	106	-15.4	229.4	142.4	G&K	397	-24.4	389	253
Allied-Lyons	341	-19.8	471	290	Gulbenk	298	-29.5	359	252
BIOC	244	-15.3	438	269	Hannay Trust	129	-25.0	199.4	118
BOC	396	-29.4	559	252	Harwar Gold	426	-26.9	626	419
BTB	282	-26.9	374	269	ICI	511.4	-27.5	619.4	519.4
Bootham	482	-25.7	589	358	Loxan Ind	827	-31.1	795	485
Britt Circle Inds	344	-27.5	578	321	Marks & Spencer	213	-15.5	239.4	199
Bwin	231	-52.2	339.4	221	NorthWest Bank	610	-18.5	794	489
British Gas	147	-12.9	209	196	P & O	478	-21.7	775	515
BP	228	-17.7	416	238	Plessey	167	-22.7	255	162
British Telecom	227	-12.7	337	206	Royal Indco	413	-22.9	585	395
Car Schwepges	254	-19.1	291	119	Tate & Lyle	691	-23.4	944	589
Courtaulds	338	-22.6	525	294	Thorn-EMI	325	-29.5	330	485
GEC	133	-16.8	251	182	Trusthouse Forte	211	-24.9	293.3	179
Glanze	151.6	-17.0	518.6	516.6	FT-SE 100 Ind	1795.2	-22.9	2442.4	1674.5

ICI is expected to report that pre-tax profits in the first nine months of 1987 passed the £1bn level when it reveals third quarter results on Thursday.

Analysts are looking for the company, led by chairman Denis Henderson, to add about £315m to the £891m it made in the first six months. In the third quarter of last year it made £256m.

They will perhaps be hoping for some soothing words on its prospects in the US. Fears over ICI's exposure to North America and the dollar have led to the company's shares underperforming the market during the traumas of the last week.

**In the third quarter trading was strong and summer seasonal weaknesses were less pronounced than usual in key areas like petrochemicals, plastics and agrochemicals. Sales are likely to have been about £2.73bn, against £2.41bn last time.**

Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits of about £176m when

**MARS & SPENCER** reports interim figures on Wednesday, compared with £153m last year. Though the unking May and June weather will have affected clothing sales, the sun had shone (remember?) at Easter, giving sales a boost, and improved weather in July should have brought the company back

Margins are continuing to edge ahead as the expansion and modernisation programme continues and the M&S remains the core holding in the retail sector.

At least a fifth of the £105m full-year pre-tax profits (a 10.5 per cent rise) which the City expects on Monday from LUCAS INDUSTRIES is accounted for by the motor and aerospace components group's famous holiday on pension contributions because schemes had been over-funded by the bull market.

It is not surprising that Lucas shares have underperformed the FT-100 by 10 per cent since the start of the year. And, in this blackest of weeks, an actual impact on results is at least two years away, which gives the market plenty of time to recover but the uncertainty there is growing the grating feeling that far from being a

metal basher, Lucas is actually quite a risky share—though it has commensurate scope to outperform if its evolving strategy (not dissimilar to that nearing completion at TI Group) pays

The City's ears accordingly will be closely tuned to Tony Gill's maiden statement as chairman and chief executive in which he is expected to unveil

his preliminary verdict after a wide-ranging review of the group's activities. The spotlight continues to focus on a steering brace, the less about the automotive side said the better if Lucas wants to get a good price for the remaining operations.

McKECHNIE, the plastics, metals, and consumer products group, is expected to pre-announce its 1989 or 1990 dividend for the year to the end of July. This is well up from the \$19m reported last year and reflects both the lower cost of raw materials and buoyancy in McKechnie's principal markets.

McKECHNIE, the UK heavy engineering, building, automotive, con-

consumer goods markets all translates into higher sales for the group, and pre-tax profits in the consumer goods division alone should be up sharply from £3.3m to well over £5m.

The metals engineering side of the business should also have performed strongly, owing to a drop in energy prices and cheaper raw materials. Former copper prices will help avoid the stock

The City is confidently expecting interim results from the FR GROUP, which makes equipment for the aircraft, energy and electronics industries, to reveal a 45 per cent rise in pre-tax profits of some £10m or even slightly more.

In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits rose 21 per cent to \$7.2m on turnover of \$48.06m. Analysts describe FR as a company showing "consistent profitability"—that is, experiencing underlying growth of 20 per cent or more, without making recent acquisitions into account. The purchase of the Carleton Components division of Moog of the US for \$30m—\$18.42m—cash will not yet have had any impact on growth sources.

**FAIRWAY**, a small printing plant, is joining the USM on Monday, by way of a placing. A week ago, this would have barely excited comment, but after five days of unprecedented turbulence in financial markets great and small, this must be considered an act of extreme folly. However, the other two promising new issues were issued as the USM initiated the main market and lurching up and down like a rollercoaster.

However, Fairway prints contract notes by stockbrokers and no doubt believes in the stock market and the exceptional volume of trade in concentrated investors' portfolios on the merits of its products.

Shares in Marina Development Group also fell by over 30 per cent. Like Acis, the company had enjoyed an undistinguished stock market career until a consortium of highly regarded managers took over the company, saying that they intended to exploit its neglected property assets and move into the storage business.

Dewey Warren, the Lloyd's insurance broker through which Robert Holmes a Court holds over 5 per cent of Morgan Grenfell by 38 per cent.

If its association with the troubled financial services sector attracted the vehicle of the Antipodean investment group, it is not top Johnson Fry, the leading Business Expansion Scheme

Overall, the US\$M appears to have weathered the storm with a slightly glacial tenacity in the overnight market. While the T All Share index fell by 9.9 per cent over the week to yesterday morning, the US\$M index was down by 18.3 per cent.

The worst performers were those companies which might be described as "special situations", where share ratings had risen to lofty heights in anticipation of a distant profit realisation, with the presence of a redoubtable market. The services group, Johnson Fry, Acis Jewellery did worst of all, falling by 42 per cent over the week. The shares had risen since the end of March, but two at the end of June after was announced that Darryl Phillips, the South African entrepreneur, had taken a stake in the company to transform the company's registration.

adviser, from posting a 7 per cent gain over the week. However, Macdonald Moore Govett observed that much of the fall in the US\$M overall was attributable to the handful of relatively large companies like Local London and Stanhope Properties.

Shares in the many smaller companies are infrequently traded at the best of time and subject to wild price fluctuations in the face of small transactions but in the larger companies there is at least a degree of marketability.

The larger companies tend to be high quality ones, so it might seem paradoxical that they bore the brunt of the selling. The fact is that it would be impossible to sell large stakes in the little companies even if investors wanted to. In most circumstances, investors do not treat their holdings as a form of long term risk capital.

**David Waller**

Company	Amendment due	Dividend last year	Final	Dividend this year
Prudential Group	Thursday	—	1.1	—
Prudential and Fidelity	Thursday	—	0.8	—
Prudential Group	Thursday	0.7	1.0	0.9
Prudential Group	Thursday	1.7	2.5	0.7
Prudential, Fidelity and Investment	Friday	2.7	4.8	3.4
Prudential	Thursday	14.0	38.0	—
Prudential	Thursday	3.0	3.0	—
Prudential Assets Trust	Tuesday	3.0	0.05	—
Prudential	Tuesday	2.8	2.6	—
Prudential	Tuesday	2.0	4.2	2.0
Prudential	Monday	3.0	7.0	3.0
Prudential	Monday	2.0	2.0	—
Prudential Home Loans	Friday	0.7	1.1	—
Prudential	Tuesday	0.7	—	—
Prudential	Tuesday	2.7	7.8	4.1
Prudential	Monday	13.8	29.8	—
Prudential	Monday	2.7	2.7	—
Prudential (Contractors)	Thursday	—	—	1.4

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)	
		Last year	This year
		Final	Interim
<b>INTERIM DIVIDENDS</b>			
Anglo Streamlines	Thursday	0.3	2.7
Anglo-Tan Plan	Friday	—	—
Avon	Monday	—	—
Baker, N.	Thursday	2.2	5.2
British and Brewster	Thursday	—	—
Capital Gearing Trust	Thursday	—	0.2
Central & Sherwood	Friday	—	—
Chemical	Monday	—	12.0
Clydebank, Horace	Thursday	2.0	2.7
Crown Son and Co.	Friday	2.0	7.0
Crown Ore Mining and Expln.	Monday	—	—
Elect. B.	Wednesday	1.0	2.0
English National Inv.	Wednesday	—	3.6
Exploration Co.	Thursday	—	2.5
Forward Group	Monday	—	—
Group	Wednesday	—	3.8
Imperial Central Inv. Hlds.	Monday	—	—
Marke and Spencer	Wednesday	1.4	3.1
MT Group	Wednesday	1.8	2.0
Northumbria and Sun. News	Monday	—	1.0
Oil & Hlds.	Friday	1.1	3.3
Oilwells	Wednesday	—	0.7
Overseas Van Bonda Fund	Monday	—	—
Scott. Trust of Scotland	Monday	1.0	2.0
Standard	Wednesday	1.5	2.8
Thameson Organisation	Monday	—	—
Walker-Walker	Friday	—	—
Westwoods	Monday	2.4	5.8
Windsor	Monday	1.0	2.0
Working Resources	Monday	0.5	1.4

Dividends are shown net of taxes per share and are adjusted for any interim dividends.

## TAKE-OVER BIDS AND MERGERS

Currency Mid far	Value of Mid per share	Market prices*	Price share bid	Value of Mid \$20**	Holder
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated					
Albercon Ltd	230†	222	240	57.92	Baine Inc
Albion & Son	139†	111	97	24.38	Charterbank
Asphal Ltd	272†	185	195	48.95	Walker (Aldon)
Asphal (S.E.W.)	400-50†	377	240	767.00	Assac Brit Foods
Bramall (C. D.)	648.00†	338	348	87.09	Asia Sharpe
Brown (Matthew)	730†	729	85	18.23	Griffith & Newcastle
Brumby Charles†	92	84	82½	14.92	Sea
Equity & Law	452-4†	438	350	451.80	Brierley Inc
Equity & Law	455-6	438	350	457.42	Campbell Inc
ERIC	455-6	390	360	14.00	Energy Res
Equity Trust	120	110	115	10.00	Astora
HM Summit	810†	775	584	77.00	TSPB
IBM	410†	38	39	24.42	Forrest
Id Signal	160	153	619	11.09	Priest Marriot
Id Signal	550†	550	650	12.94	Churidge
Powerline Ind†	158-140	140	153	18.49	Bencher
Samelson	180†	198	137	38.97	Willis Faber
Stewart Wrighton	445	418	540†	12.08	Stevens
Telecom	341	311	349	13.77n	Bayes
Teck Compt Ind	390-4	394	478	21.14	Australian Res
Willis Group	195†	270	188	17.15	James & Felt Dev
				12.08	

Company	to	(0000)	per share (p)	share (s)	
Barrett, Henry	Aug	1,590	(1,360)	8.5 (5.0)	0.8 (→)
Beebe, C. H.	June	73,500	(31,100)	2.0 (17.5)	5.4 (4.7)
Carlson, J.	June	1,000	(1,000)	3.0 (3.0)	0.0 (→)
GE Holdings	June	2,180	(1,240)	→	0.6 (0.6)
Granville	Mar	835	(514)	→	→
Highland Dist	Aug	12,050	(1,000)	6.4 (→)	2.4 (2.4)
Highgate Elec	Aug	1,000	(1,000)	→	2.5 (2.5)
Leisure Inv	June	1,890	(808)	4.3 (3.0)	1.4 (→)
Man & Los Inv Trst	July	182	(40)	10.6 (→)	3.1 (3.1)
Marine Ind	July	1,430	(430)	→	4.5 (2.3)
Peterson Zach	May	33,260	(42,280)	62.7 (48.0)	7.1 (6.8)
Scottish Nat Prop	Aug	7,810	(7,070)	9.5 (7.1)	4.6 (4.2)
Stecher, William	Aug	1,000	(1,000)	4.1 (3.9)	→
Wheeler, Harry	May	350L	(730L)	16.15 (7.32)	4.0 (→)
Wheffiler, Barry	July	3,670	(1,700)	15.7 (8.4)	2.0 (→)
Wetelsky	July	75,230	(50,250)	48.3 (41.4)	14.0 (11.8)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Adams Hume	Sept	3,910	2,880	1.5	(1)
Amkovee Inv Tot	Sept	470	(384)	4.4	(1)
Anchor Chemicals	June	1,170	(673)	2.9	(1.2)
Atlas Converting	June	1,269	(701)	2.5	(1)
Baird	June	11	(62)	1.0	(1)
BDA Holdings	July	459	(189)	1.9	(1)
Bertrand Holdings	June	78	(6)	0.8	(1)
Book Agency	June	321	(74)	5.0	(3.8)
British Amer Film	June	319	(309)	2.0	(1)
Chillingworth Cerpa	June	2,090	(1,700)	2.8	(2.3)
Chuan Pinnan Ser	June	404	(204)	3.0	(1.9)
Clarke Holdings	June	239	(101)	1.0	(1.9)
David & Newman	June	3,100L	(3,450L)	4.0	(3.9)
Derwent Valley	June	818	(155)	0.7	(0.7)
Dixons Leisure Inv Tot	Sept	13,750	(1,400)	1.0	(1.0)
Foodac Agric	June	78	(502)	1.0	(1)
Forgueson Ind	Aug	5,000	(4,008)	3.4	(3.1)
First Charlotte Am	Sept	16	(50)	1.0	(1)
GZA	June	855	(548)	1.0	(1)
Hammarco	June	27,030	(22,380)	3.0	(2.8)
Harris Greenway	July	5,500	(20,450)	1.7	(1.7)
Hawley Holdings	June	72,100	(72,100)	3.0	(3.0)
House of Leroux	June	702	(753)	3.0	(3.0)
Jitra Rubber	June	5	(80)	1.0	(1)
Lanka	June	253	(185)	1.5	(1.5)
Leeds Holdings	June	19	(20)	1.0	(1)
LEF Group	June	4,200	(2,108)	2.2	(1.9)
Macnamara, Walter	June	1,320	(919)	3.8	(2.9)
Scamco	June	2,770	(2,770)	3.0	(3.0)
Shure & Law	June	229	(151)	1.9	(1.9)
Silentlight	Aug	3,210	(1,430)	1.0	(1)
Smithlight Elec	July	354	(670)	0.2	(0.1)
W. J. Allen	July	25,500L	(25,500L)	0.5	(0.5)
Wd Ridge	July	693	(654)	0.4	(1)
Walker, J. O.	June	309	(37)	2.5	(2.0)

**Feedex will raise £1.8m via a rights issue of 44.2m new ordinary Feedex shares at 45p at the rate of 38 new shares for every 100 held. Lendis Holdings is to raise £1.2m via a rights issue—on the basis of one new share for every seven.**

Record is to return to the Stock Market via a placing which will value the company at £22m.

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	Quoted rate %	Compounded return for taxpayers at			Frequency of payment	Tax (see notes)	Amount invested £	Withdrawals (days)
		27%	45%	60%				
<b>CLEARING BANK*</b>								
Deposit account .....	3.30	3.35	2.49	1.81	monthly	1	—	0-7
High interest cheque .....	5.60	5.75	4.22	3.07	monthly	1	1,000-4,999	0
High interest cheque .....	6.00	6.17	4.52	3.29	monthly	1	5,000-9,999	0
High interest cheque .....	6.40	6.59	4.82	3.51	monthly	1	10,000-49,999	0
High interest cheque .....	6.70	6.91	5.05	3.67	monthly	1	50,000 minimum	0
<b>BUILDING SOCIETY†</b>								
Ordinary share .....	5.00	5.06	3.81	2.77	half yearly	1	1-250,000	0
High interest access .....	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	yearly	1	500 minimum	0
High interest access .....	7.00	7.00	5.27	3.84	yearly	1	2,000 minimum	0
High interest access .....	7.50	7.50	5.65	4.11	yearly	1	5,000 minimum	0
High interest access .....	7.75	7.75	5.85	4.25	yearly	1	10,000 minimum	0
90-day .....	7.75	7.90	5.95	4.33	half yearly	1	500-9,999	90
90-day .....	8.00	8.16	6.15	4.47	half yearly	1	10,000-24,999	90
90-day .....	8.25	8.42	6.34	4.61	half yearly	1	25,000 minimum	90
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>								
Investment account .....	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	yearly	2	5-100,000	30
Income bonds .....	10.50	8.04	6.06	4.41	monthly	2	2,000-100,000	90
Deposit bonds .....	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	yearly	2	100-100,000	90
33rd issue† .....	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	not applicable	3	25-1,000‡	8
Yearly plan .....	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	not applicable	3	20-200/month	14
General extension .....	6.51	6.51	6.51	6.51	quarterly	3	—	8
<b>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS</b>								
Schneider Wages .....	6.58	6.78	5.11	3.72	monthly	1	2,500 minimum	0
Provincial Trust .....	7.34	7.66	5.77	4.19	monthly	1	1,000 minimum	0
<b>BRITISH GOVERNMENT STOCKS‡</b>								
5pc Treasury 1986-89 .....	8.54	7.14	6.20	5.42	half yearly	4	—	0
8pc Treasury 1992 .....	9.59	7.35	5.86	4.62	half yearly	4	—	0
10.25pc Exchequer 1995 .....	9.82	7.09	5.27	3.76	half yearly	4	—	0
3pc Treasury 1990 .....	7.84	6.57	6.39	5.91	half yearly	4	—	0
3pc Treasury 1992 .....	8.07	6.75	6.03	5.03	half yearly	4	—	0
Index-linked 2pc 1992† .....	8.05	7.48	7.11	6.80	half yearly	24	—	0

\* Lloyds Bank. † Halifax 90-day; immediate access for balances over £5,000. ‡ Special facility for extra £5,000. § Source: Phillips and Drew. ¶ Assumes 4.5 per cent inflation rate. 1 Paid after deduction of composite rate tax, credited as net of basic rate tax. 2 Paid gross. 3 Tax free. 4 Dividends paid after deduction of basic rate tax.



## MARKETS

THE SLUMP in share prices on Wall Street has spread around the world with frightening speed over the past few days. Even those countries which seem far removed from the financial turmoil in the US have seen a sharp setback in their local markets.

There are two main explanations for this contagion. The first stems from the old cliché about what happens when the US catches a cold. Falling equities and rising bond prices in New York have been telling a chilling story about the threat of an economic recession — and the impact of that would be felt all around the world.

Another explanation is the fact that in the past few years the world's stock markets have become increasingly integrated. Economic, technological and regulatory changes have transformed the international financial landscape, and equity investors have been shuffling their money across each other's borders in an unprecedented fashion.

According to an analysis by Salomon Brothers, international trade in equities jumped by two-fifths to nearly \$750bn in 1986, and the figures climbed steeply again in the first nine months of this year, as fund managers hunted for bargains in the most obscure corners of the world.

Just as all the world's markets climbed together during the prolonged bull market which has now ended in such a spectacular fashion, so they now fall together. News of a steep fall in New York would knock prices back in early trading on Tokyo, and Tokyo's declines in turn would hit sentiment in London. It felt

# You can run but you can't hide

at times almost like an unstoppable spiral.

There really has been nowhere to hide, as the table (which only goes up to the close of trading last Thursday) makes clear — though of course the scale of the setback has varied from country to country. The size and liquidity of a particular market relative to its domestic economy has obviously been relevant. Thus there has not been much of a setback in Austria, where the equity market plays a minor role in the economy, and for similar reasons West Germany also seemed to be coming through with relatively little damage.

The main victims were those markets which had climbed the furthest during the latter stages of the bull run, and those which have the closest links with the US economy. An obvious candidate for the chop on both counts was Mexico. Share prices there had boomed ahead in the most incredible way over the previous 12 months, with the FT-Actuaries Mexico Index rising from 100 at the beginning of January to a peak of over 420. Given the importance of US trade to the local economy, it is small wonder that share prices there have been in a nosedive.

There are similar explanations for the very poor short-term performance of markets like those in Singapore and Malaysia. Nearly a third of Singapore's exports go to the US, and the prospect of a strong

recovery in corporate earnings had fuelled a powerful bull market from the low point touched in the spring of 1986.

But the country which has had everyone's attention in the past few days has been Japan, which now vies with the US for the title of the biggest stock market in the world. For months past there has been growing concern in Europe and the US about the giddy heights

of Japanese shares, which at one stage were trading on an average p/e ratio of over 60.

Foreign investors have been shunning the market, on the view that if there was a risk of financial calamity anywhere in the world, it was probably to be found on the floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. As it happened, Tokyo has fallen less than other major markets. And although there have been periods of heavy selling, there have been moments of easy calm as well.

The oddest was on Monday, when Tokyo appeared locked into some freeze frame in immobility while confidence in other markets all around the world was draining away. Trading volume was limited even when prices were sliding, because exchange rules mean that shares are suspended if the number of sellers gets out of hand. The authorities have done their formidable best to prevent a run on share prices developing, with the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan well to the fore in urging "responsible" behavior and offering comforting advice. On Tuesday, it was reported that the big four securities firms — Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi — had been internally asked to provide support, while the main business newspaper was reporting on Thursday that the new prime minister intended to expand domestic demand in the economy.

But foreign investors have not been much impressed. The London market in Japanese equity warrants halted trading on Thursday morning, having been overwhelmed with sell orders. And looming up on the horizon is the next jumbo listing of shares in NTT, the telecommunications giant. This has been scheduled for the second week in November, and with proceeds estimated (at least until this week) at well over

\$30bn, it stands to make the BP offer look like small potatoes.

Still in the Far East, the relatively modest decline in Hong Kong gives a quite misleading impression of what has been happening in the colony. The authorities decided at dawn on Tuesday to close the market until Monday, a decision which at first appeared to be no more than a clumsy overreaction of a type which would threaten Hong Kong's claim to be an international financial centre.

But as the week wore on, there appeared to be more sinister explanations for the closure. Speculators in the futures market apparently face large losses as a result of trading in futures contracts on the Hang Seng Index, on a scale

that potentially threatens serious defaults. Late in the week it was announced that Hambros Bank had been hired to advise the Hong Kong authorities on ways of dealing with the crisis. In a week of nasty stories, this sounds like one of the worst.

Swinging to the southern hemisphere, there has also been heavy selling in Australia. The market there had been boosted by renewed confidence in the Government's fiscal and monetary policies, and by the strength of natural resources stocks, especially those with gold mining interests. At its high point this autumn, the FT-Actuaries Australia Index was 51 per cent up on its January levels.

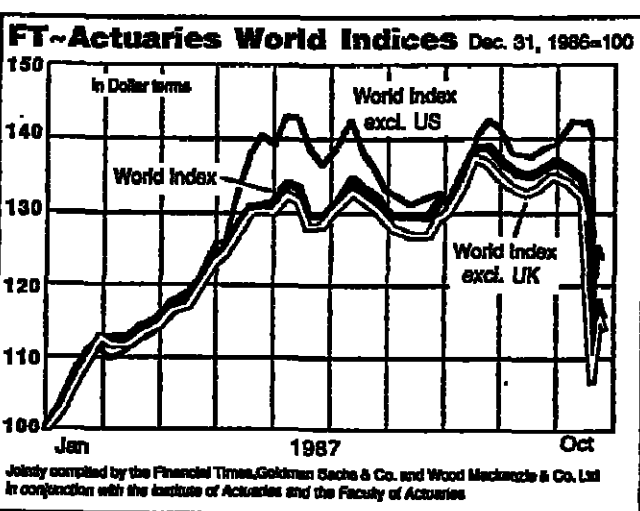
Opposition politicians are now claiming that the whole basis of the forecasts on which the recent balanced budget was built has been shot away. And a country which is still so heavily dependent on the agricultural and mineral sectors is obviously seen as being vulnerable to slumps in the world economy.

Shares which have been especially hit in the carnage have been those controlled by those high profile entrepreneurs which have been so visible on the international scene in the past year or two. The capitalisation of Robert Holmes & Court's Bell Group fell by about two-fifths in the fortnight to this Thursday, and so did that of

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Businessmen like John Elliott and Larry Adler announced that they had become buyers at bargain prices; shades of old John D. Rockefeller and his homily about buying high grade common stocks after the crash of 1929. As someone said, he was the only one who could afford to.

Back in Europe, the slide in some of the larger markets had started well before the main upset. In France, for instance, the mood had turned distinctly gloomy in September, as a result of political uncertainty and a rather worrying economic outlook with inflation rising and a wobbly currency.

Italy, too, had been in a weak patch, thanks in part to rising interest rates and slower earnings growth. Denmark and the Netherlands had also underper-



formed, but foreign buyers had been moving into Switzerland and Norway, and both these markets have suffered severe declines in the past couple of weeks.

Share prices in Canada had been lifted by the rise in commodity prices and are comparatively benefits of the dollar's decline: Goldman Sachs had estimated a 35 per cent rise in company profits during 1987. But prices were already beginning to come off the boil in the early autumn, and they have cracked back sharply this week.

Even the traditional bolt holes have provided no shelter. The FT Gold Mines Index dropped by nearly a tenth in the first four days of the week, and on Thursday night it stood a fifth below its August peaks.

Richard Lambert

## The worst is yet to come

"YOU AIN'T heard nothin' yet." For many years those celebrated words have been associated with Al Jolson's shout of joy at the end of the Jazz Singer, the first-ever talking picture, released half way through the bull-market euphoria of the 1920s.

But when Fred Zuckerman, the widely respected Treasurer of Chrysler Corporation, said "you ain't seen nothing yet" in an official statement on Thursday, there was nothing enthusiastic about his meaning. His comment came in explanation of Chrysler's announcement that its pension fund was cutting its exposure to the equity market almost by half. Zuckerman said he was "almost positive" that "a horrendous bear market" had now begun. Nobody who has read this column over the past

12 months will be surprised that Zuckerman is being singled out for special attention, while little heed is being paid to the hundreds of corporate chiefs shouting from the rooftops about the irrationality of the crash and the inevitability of a rebound.

The very fact that pessimists like Mr. Zuckerman remain a small minority, is one of the strongest reasons for expecting the debacle on stock markets around the world to continue. This statement is based not just on the kind of knee-jerk contrarianism which has led so many investors disastrously astray in the past few months, for it is not just amateur psychology which suggests there remain far more weak holders to be flushed out of the market, and that the process is more likely to take

months or even years, than days.

There is one crucial question in assessing the widespread predictions of a near-automatic rebound from current "over-

Wall Street

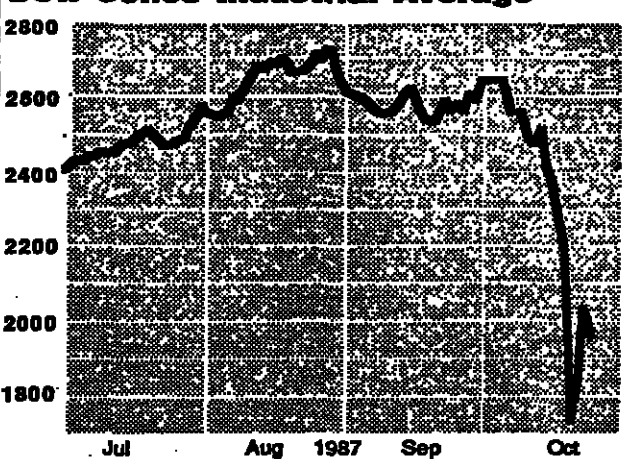
conditions: is the market's recent collapse the "irrational excess," or was the irrational excess the strategic height which the market reached earlier this year? The reasons for pessimism are at least four-fold. The first is obvious: despite their record falls, stock prices are still much higher today than almost anybody imagined possible two or three years ago. Price/earnings ratios, age-adjusted yields are,

still at peak-of-the-market levels by historical standards.

There seems to be no allowance at all in the market prices for the probability — indeed, the inevitability — of a recession within the next few years. Most importantly, perhaps, there are still huge profits to be taken by those investors who were lucky enough to get into the market more than a year ago.

On the macroeconomic front, nothing has happened to justify the massive revaluation of asset prices which took place in the past two or three years. It is particularly important to see this point in a worldwide perspective. Looking at the US economy alone, a very important bullish factor has come into play since early 1985, when the dollar started tumbling from its cripplingly overvalued level.

### Dow Jones Industrial Average



The gains to US industry response to the new international trading conditions, but far from plunging in and in Japan particularly, rose

even faster than they did on Wall Street. And it was the previously unthinkable valuation of companies at 40, 50 or even 100 times earnings in Tokyo which was largely responsible for sustaining the levitation on Wall Street.

This points to the third reason for caution about the future. The Japanese market, which is now crucial to the stability of the whole world financial system, and certainly holds the key to share valuations around the world, is still living in cloud cuckoo land. The market in Tokyo, despite having been infected with far more speculative excesses than any other in the world, is still only 15 per cent off its all-time high, while Wall Street has plunged by 50 per cent.

This brings us to the last and most immediate reason for concern. Far from accepting a gradual adjustment to reality in stockmarket prices, the world — and Tokyo particularly — seems determined to stave off the evil

day of reckoning.

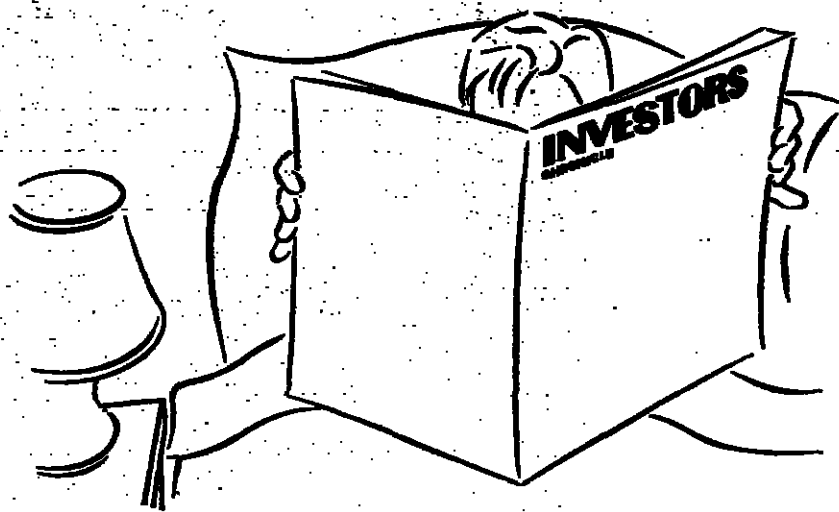
In the US corporations whose overburdened with debt, and in balance sheets are already poor shares to withstand recession are announcing stock buybacks in order to boost their flagging share prices. And round the world, the retail stock brokers' switchboards are jammed by retail bargain hunters.

Of course, another collapse of 500 points or even 300 points in a single day is most unlikely. There seems to be little doubt that the scale of Wall Street's recent swings was greatly exaggerated by factors like computerised arbitrage in the futures markets and "stop-loss" "portfolio insurance."

MONDAY 1738.74 -508.00  
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Anatole Kaletsky

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We would like to take this opportunity to put the events of the last week into perspective, as it affects all unit trust investors.

A unique set of circumstances, triggered in America, had a knock-on effect around the world.

It's never happened before. It may never happen again.

Although record falls in markets have occurred, they have little to do with the state of either the world's economies or its major companies. Most are healthy and profitable.

Consequently, some of the best investment opportunities we have seen for a very long time are now emerging.

Whilst the American economy faces a number of difficulties, this isn't true of Britain or the great majority of other countries. As a result, we anticipate that most stock markets will before long begin the climb back towards higher levels.

This could happen relatively quickly if America begins to tackle its main problem, its excessive budget deficit. Lower world interest rates could result.

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We hope this has thrown a little light on this astonishing week. If you would like to know more about the opportunities it has created, please contact your own financial adviser and ask him about Gartmore's range of unit trusts.

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Richard Tomkins on the problems facing new investors

# As BP bites the dust...

ONE DOES not have to be an informed City analyst to appreciate that the outlook for the 27.2bn British Petroleum share offer is grim, to say the least.

When the price of the offer was announced 10 days ago, BP's already-quoted shares were trading at 347p, so the issue price of 330p a share looked a bargain.

But as stock markets collapsed this week, BP's existing shares went into a nosedive. On Tuesday, the day the prospectus for the issue was published, they plummeted to 285p, making the 330p offer price look ludicrously expensive.

In spite of a partial rally in the days that followed, by last night's close the existing shares were still far below the offer price at 287p. On that basis, Britain's biggest-ever share offer looks set to become Britain's biggest-ever flop.

That judgment could yet prove a little hasty. The offer does not close until 10 am on Wednesday morning, so if there were a strong and confident recovery in the London stock market on Monday and Tuesday, BP's price could rise high enough to make the offer look attractive again.

It is also worth noting that the existing shares do not necessarily have to rise above 330p to trigger interest in the issue. Institutional investors could theoretically start moving into the new stock with the existing shares at anything over 310p, because they attach a

value of around 20p to the partly-paid status of the new shares.

It would be unwise to count on it, though. After all, half the 2bn shares on offer have been reserved for small UK investors, and after this week's events in the stock markets, they seem unlikely to regard the issue with enthusiasm.

Those with long memories will recall a similar set of circumstances when another oil company — Britoil — was privatised in November 1982. Then, the Government had the misfortune to publish the prospectus for what was then Britain's biggest-ever share

offering on the eve of a plunge in the oil price.

Consequently, some 70 per cent of the issue was left with the underwriters, and the shares, sold at 215p, sank to a low of 157p over the next three months. It was nearly seven months before the shares regained their issue price.

In BP's case, the institutions are keenly aware that a heavy undersubscription could produce a similarly depressing effect on the price.

There is another good reason why small investors should be extremely chary of the BP offer even if the price should rebound. Letters of allotment will

not be posted to applicants until 10 days after dealings in the new shares begin, and most small investors will find themselves unable to sell their shares without this proof of purchase. That means they will be exposed over an uncomfortably long period to the most volatile market in recent memory.

The shares could still have some conceivable attraction to very long term investors. They will benefit from high effective yields on the partly-paid stock while they wait for their 10-year loyalty bonus of shares in three years' time. But for everybody else, the message is simple and firm: steer clear.



HOW THE POPULAR ISSUES FARED

Issue	Issue date	Issue price	Price on Oct 15	Price on Oct 22	Fall
British Telecom	3.12.84	138p	265p	222p	-16%
TSB	10.10.86	100p	150p	125p	-17%
British Gas	9.12.86	95p	170p	149p	-14%
British Airways	11.2.87	125p	231p	166p	-28%
Rolls-Royce	20.5.87	170p	208p	152p	-27%
BAA	22.7.87	100p	150p	118p	-21%

\*Fell-up price

## ...other privatisation stocks plummet

BRITAIN'S new shareholders experienced a novel and distinctly unwelcome sensation this week as the plummeting market wiped out large chunks of the profits they had made on privatisation stocks.

The number of shareholders in Britain has shot up from 2m to 9.4m since 1983, mainly because of the easy money to be made out of government issues which have been sold cheaply into a rising market.

But share ownership has not yet become part of popular culture. Most people still only hold shares in one or two of the privatised companies, so it

is the price performance of these that they will have been watching this week.

It is interesting to see how their fates have varied. The wider market fell by 16 per cent over the week to Thursday, and shares in British Telecom, TSB and British Gas fell by almost exactly the same amount. But shares in British Airways, Rolls-Royce and BAA did much worse: indeed, Rolls-Royce shares are now at an 18p discount to the issue price.

One reason for the discrepancy is that the three earlier issues are all fairly solid UK-orientated stocks, whereas the

three later ones are related to the volatile aerospace industry. The UK economy is looking comparatively sound at the moment, but the market fears that a downturn in the US economy could hit transatlantic air traffic, airport use, and demand for aero-engines.

Secondly, the share registers of the later three issues contain a high proportion of overseas investors.

Rolls-Royce has suffered particularly badly from this because the proportion of its shares in overseas investors' hands has recently been discovered to be above the maxi-

mum permitted level of 15 per cent.

So Britain's new shareholders have now learnt by experience what they have often been told, but probably found hard to believe: that shares go down as well as up. Could this spell trouble for the rest of the Government's privatisation programme?

Probably not. People have short memories and it is a full two years before the next big privatisation issue — electricity and water — are due.

It is the Government's good fortune that the crash came before people had filled in their

BP application forms. There might have been trouble if large numbers of investors had lost their shirts on the issue.

The most serious short-term implication is for the government's sale of the second half of British Telecom, which some had speculated could come in 1987-88.

That might have to be delayed a while now, but no matter: the proceeds from further instalments on the British Gas, BAA and BP shares will provide virtually the whole of the Government's £50m planned privatisation revenues next year.

## Resources

## Midas loses his touch

THE BEHAVIOUR of gold, and to a lesser extent the base metals, during the great stock market crash of 1987 has been puzzling and apparently perverse.

With the markets in turmoil, and tensions rising in the Gulf, gold and the precious metals might be expected to provide a safe haven for money.

And on Monday when the equity markets fell off a cliff, this expectation seemed well founded. The price of gold moved sharply up to \$481 per oz and many traders believed it would easily breach \$500, if the market remained unstable.

The next day, however, as equity markets continued their precipitous fall, the gold price seemed to lose its nerve. After an unprecedented collapse of Far East markets, the gold price opened \$4 lower in London on Tuesday, then fell \$25 in the afternoon, with the price of silver losing more than \$1 in less than five minutes.

Since then the world's equity and financial markets have become, if possible, even more nervous, in spite of some rallies on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet the price of gold has scarcely budged. At Friday's morning close in London it was \$473, a modest rise of 2 per cent compared with a week earlier.

By Thursday, prices of other metals were moving in sympathy with the gyrations of the equity markets, although to a subdued extent. So what has been happening? Why have investors who saw 25 per cent of the value of their share prices evaporate, not moved to the comparative safety of gold, or other commodity metals?

One answer, no doubt, is that as uncertainty was piled upon uncertainty many of the old relationships have been called into question. Is gold's monetary function basically a hedge against inflation rather than against a collapse in equity prices? If so, what are the implications of this week's events for inflation and the dollar?

On Tuesday, these doubts were added to the more immediate difficulties of those financial institutions which were facing large margin losses on equity trading. It seems that a significant number sold gold

stocks to provide immediate liquidity.

Rhona O'Connell, gold analyst at Shearson Lehman, believes that the apparently perverse behaviour of the gold price does in fact reinforce the view that it is still regarded widely as a hedge. On this view, the steady rise in the gold price since the beginning of 1985, when it touched \$300, reflected a growing unease among some investors about the levels to which world stock markets had risen. The hedge was therefore taking place before the crash, not afterwards. This would explain Tuesday's fall in price.

However, any understanding of the fundamental forces at work in the market for gold and other commodities must be able to see through the distorting lens of the dollar.

Calculations by the World Bank suggest that every 1 per cent fall in the value of the dollar should lead to a rise in commodity prices in dollars of about the same amount. This is basically because a fall in the dollar makes the commodity cheaper in other currencies, which will raise demand and tend to depress supply. Although it is difficult to be sure whether this happens in practice, the rise in metals and agricultural raw materials prices this year does seem to be related to the earlier weakness of the dollar.

In the case of gold, the relationship is particularly interesting. Its dollar price fell by about a third between the end of 1982 and the beginning of 1985, at a time when the dollar was rising strongly. Gold's recovery since then of about the same amount has been roughly in step with the 28 per cent fall of the dollar's value against a trade-weighted basket of currencies compared with its average value in 1985.

So one could make a case that in an underlying sense gold has maintained a remarkably steady value through all these fluctuations in the outside world.

It may be, therefore, that gold is losing its special magic as an investment hedge and is behaving much like other commodities.

Max Wilkinson



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THE WORLD'S NO 1

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## FINANCE &amp; THE FAMILY

## Experts in the world's main financial centres analyse the changed market scene

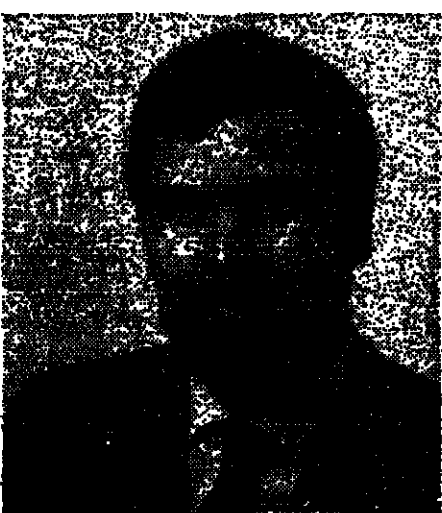
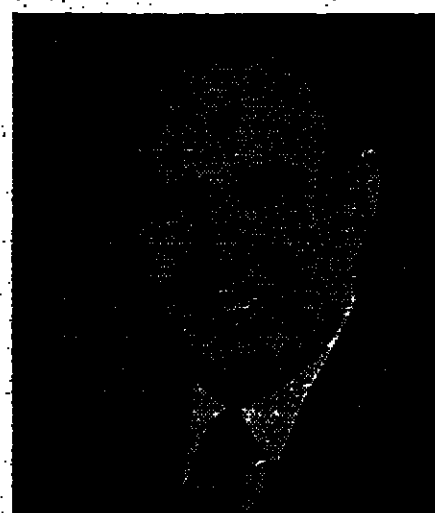
OVER the last few months, in the interval since late summer, the US economy and the securities markets entered into a zone of risks which did not at first affect the stock market but which had a profound effect on the bond market.

Our budget deficit was seemingly intractable, with the Congress and the Administration at an impasse. Given that fact, at that time it became clear that any move to reduce our trade deficit would bring in its train further inflationary pressures and, inevitably, higher interest rates. Inflation was already quickening, with the consumer prices moving up at about 5 per cent, and was expected to head higher next year—a level which, if sustained, would be beyond the limits of Federal Reserve tolerance.

Cutting the trade deficit through higher exports or lower imports without a parallel dampening in domestic demand would only intensify the demand pressures which were already surfacing in our product and labour markets. Protectionist measures would have a similar effect on prices.

Coupled with worries that continuing instability for the US dollar would discourage foreign interests from investing further in US securities, the bond market responded in classic fashion with a sharp retreat, and bond yields rose by 35 per cent before the stock market crashed.

Henry Kaufman, managing director and member of the executive committee, Salomon Brothers.



Left to right: Henry Kaufman, Nicholas Knight and Nobumitsu Kagami

THE "epicentre" of the crash in worldwide equity markets was clearly the US, where worse than expected US trade figures, declining confidence in the dollar, rising US interest rates, and unhelpful comments (later retracted) by US Treasury Secretary James Baker about the Louvre Accord, blasted the equity market out of the water. The relative unattractiveness of equities compared to bonds provided the scope for the downside move, but the magnitude of the move around the world pays powerful tribute to the new forces of globalisation, options and futures markets, and the instantaneous and global dissemination of information. A new era has truly arrived

as a consequence of these factors. As for the future, the markets are likely to recover a fair proportion of the lost ground—the fundamental economic background remains broadly supportive, and problems of valuation have been corrected, quite literally, overnight. In the UK the combination of economic strength, corporate health, political stability and currency renaissance is fairly compelling to the global investment community running scared. The market should be significantly higher than the recent lows by the time of the budget next year.

Nicholas Knight, senior investment strategist, James Capel, London

NEW YORK, London and Tokyo fell like lemmings over the cliff this week. In Tokyo's case equities were already overbought relative to the bond market and a correction of around 750 had been anticipated for some time. In the event, the correction was exacerbated, fivefold, by the collapse in New York.

Until this week the Tokyo market had been generally very strong with investors pinning their hopes on expectations of a marked recovery in corporate earnings. Observers were in fact delighted that a transition from the earlier money-driven market to an earnings-driven market was taking place smoothly. New York soon changed that and, although certain recovery has taken place, some nervousness will remain until a clearer statement of policy comes from the US Fed as to interest rates and the ideal level for the dollar.

Despite the anxiety caused by these external factors, together with rising bond yields, underlying confidence still remains strong. The seasonal October to December strength of the market should be maintained: during this period many fund managers look to

make considerable gains in their portfolios so that profits in the next three months can be smoothly taken—thus allowing the year ending in March to close satisfactorily. However, the dominant feature will be what happens in the US. Signs of stability on Wall Street and the fact that German and US officials have agreed to take positive action on monetary and exchange rate policies are encouraging factors, but a positive statement from the Fed would go a long way to dispelling the remaining uncertainties.

Nobumitsu Kagami, managing director of Nomura Investment Management Company (NIMCO), Tokyo. THE THREAT of higher short-term rates worldwide has receded during the past week. Crucially, the Fed, intent upon backstopping the banking system and mindful of the new potent risk of US recession, is determined not to raise its discount rate.

The dollar remains vulnerable given the prospect of no near-term turnaround in the US trade deficit and intensifying strains between GS policy-makers regarding the distribution of adjustment burdens—notably the refusal of the US seriously

to tackle the budget deficit. Looking increasingly frayed at the edges, the Louvre accord may yet fall apart.

The 1988 global growth prospect has taken a sharp turn for the worse. The slump in US stock prices looks set to cause the US consumer to retrench, with adverse knock-on effects both domestically and internationally. And certainly, nobody is willing to adopt a "locomotive" role for the world economy.

worsened outlook for economic growth worldwide, coupled with a weaker dollar, will cause corporate earnings projections in all major markets to be chopped back, possibly very sharply.

However, the gloomier outlook for economic activity should dampen nascent inflation anxieties, in both the US and elsewhere. In particular, the commodity price upturn will be dampened, if not substantially reversed. The global environment remains a disinflationary one.

Jon Harwood, chief UK economist, Warburg Securities, London. THE WORST has been avoided, and there are two hopeful signs. The value of the dollar is gaining ground and US interest rates have been falling. These indicate that confidence in the US economy has not been lost; it is therefore unlikely that the current situation will lead to a panic.

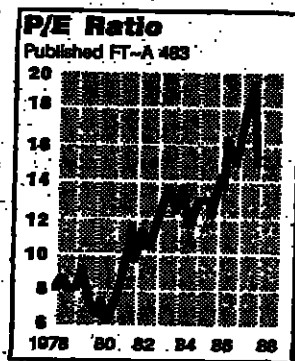
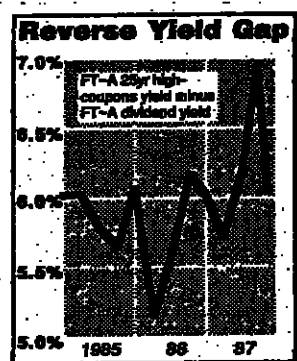
However, if the conflict in the Gulf escalates to the point that the Strait of Hormuz is closed, and the price of crude oil rises, it may provoke concern that inflation will start to rise in the US. Also, if Japanese investors do not buy as many bonds as usual in the Federal Reserve's bond auction next month, US interest rates will rise sharply and the value of the dollar will fall quickly.

If something like this actually happens, there will be another great crash. Although I do not regard this as a likely scenario, it would be wise to remain cautious.

Kenneth Edwards, senior managing director, Sansa Research Institute.

## Return to go

Richard Lambert suggests that, in the present uncertainty, investors should re-think their ideas.



THE SHOCK of this week's slump in share prices will continue to reverberate around the world's financial markets for many months to come. Easy assumptions about the nature of equity investment have been shattered, and confidence has been undermined. The evidence that this is everywhere to be seen. On Thursday morning, for instance, a brief rally in London was quickly reversed as sellers rushed for the exit.

In these conditions, investors are going to have to go back to the old fashioned fundamentals—earnings, dividends, growth and diversification, which seemed to have lost their relevance in the heady days of the summer.

Inevitably, there is now no shortage of people arguing with the wisdom of hindsight that share prices were grossly overvalued immediately before the crash. It is worth recalling the arguments which were being made at the time to support these high valuations.

The most important was that the UK corporate sector was healthier than it had been for years, both in terms of profitability and balance sheets, and further growth was assured at least through to the end of 1988.

Barclays de Zotte Wedd, one of the firms which has been most pessimistic about the outlook for equities in recent months, has been looking for growth of very roughly a sixth in both profits and dividends in 1988, with more to come in 1989.

That would follow profits growth of well over a fifth in 1986. The prospect of dividend growth continuing to rise far in excess of inflation had a profound effect on the relationship between equities and gilt edged securities.

In real terms, dividends grew by 8 per cent a year between 1982 and 1988, so that investors became increasingly willing to accept a much lower current return on equities in exchange for the prospect of rising stream of income in the future.

In addition, the UK economy looked healthier than those of most other major countries in the world.

And by international stan-

STOCK MARKET CYCLES					
All Share		Real Economy		Real Markets	
Month	Index	%	%	%	%
Month	Monthly	Change	Change	Change	Change
Month	Index	%	%	%	%
Sept. 1964	108	+24	26	-17	26
Nov. 1968	96				
Jan. 1969	177	+97	26	-31	17
June 1970	152				
Nov. 1973	224	+84	23	-71	31
Dec. 1974	65				
Feb. 1976	165	+157	14	-26	3
Oct. 1978	125				
April 1979	270	+16	30	-16	7
Nov. 1979	226				
Aug. 1981	230	+46	21	-13	2
Oct. 1981	287				
July 15 1987	1,239	+320	70		

Source: Phillips & Drew.



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"THE PRICE of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up. The trust is best suited to investors who are prepared to accept a higher level of risk in return for higher potential long-term rewards."

These two phrases, taken from recent unit trust advertisements, became reality this week for unit-holders when stockmarkets around the world collapsed.

The first phrase is obligatory in all unit trust advertisements. But with a decade of bull markets, unit-holders may well have forgotten its implications. A fall of 10 per cent or more in a day will serve as a salutary reminder for a long time to come.

The long bull market period may well have blunted unit-holders' perception of investment risk. Over the past few years the risk has been whether the fund might show 30 per cent, or 60 per cent growth, over a 12-month period.

This week will have shown unit-holders just how volatile markets can be and that there is a downside as well as an upside to equity investment, no matter how skilled the investment managers.

There were some lessons for the unit trust managers, too. Consider this next quotation from another recent unit trust advertisement: "You can cash in your units at any time."

The management group which made this statement suspended dealings on Tuesday, thereby putting a question mark over this assertion. But it was by no means the only group to take this action.

Many other unit trust groups also suspended dealings on Tuesday and unit-holders could not sell immediately. Neither could the braver ones buy, if there was any place for the brave in midweek.

This suspension did not mean that unit-holders could not sell at all. However, it did mean that they could not sell at the last quoted price as they could have done up to Tuesday.

Unit trust managers knew that Monday's price was far too high for selling a day later. Sellers would have got an exceptional bargain at the expense of those unit-holders left in the trust.



Eric Short on the ups and downs of unit trusts

## Hard lessons

But what managers could not ascertain on Tuesday was a sensible price on which to deal. Most groups use Datastream for the price data of the underlying securities. The volatility of the equity markets was such that it was impossible for the managers to get realistic valuations of unit prices.

All groups moved to a bid basis for valuation but even then they claimed that prices were little better than guesses. It would have been unfair, they said, to have let holders cash in units at prices which could have moved several percentage points either way within a short time of being calculated and which, also, would take the price spread outside the permitted range.

So the groups accepted selling orders on a blind basis—they would be transacted, after confirmation, when a sensible price had been fixed. For the groups concerned that did not occur until Wednesday.

In effect, these groups deferred dealing for 24 hours or more, at least temporarily, on to a forward pricing system.

This action was not confined to the smaller unit trust groups—likely to be more vulnerable

to a wave of selling and perhaps without the resources to make frequent price adjustments. Many major groups, including subsidiaries of household name companies, took this action. The reasons are understandable. They were taken to protect all unit-holders, those who stayed as well as those who sold, as well as the group itself. Nevertheless, the groups concerned had broken faith with the unit-holder's understanding that he could cash in his units at any time.

The particular group which stuck its neck out now accepts that it will need to modify its statements on immediate selling to exclude exceptional circumstances and, possibly, explain what such circumstances could be.

However, some groups, mainly the long established ones like M & G and Save and Prosper, did continue trading. M & G makes up its unit prices on the morning's underlying securities prices rather than on those of the previous night. Its deals for the day are transacted at those prices. So on Tuesday it did just that and carried on as normal.

Save and Prosper managed to fix its prices at 11.00 on

Tuesday and traded on those for the rest of the day, before returning to an end-day valuation.

However, the nearest solution came from the Framlington Group. With the agreement of its trustees, Framlington switched to an approximate valuation basis using established equity indices to update the last determined set of prices.

By this means it was able to produce prices at various times during the day on which it could deal with reasonable certainty that the prices were not too far out. It thereby kept faith with unit-holders wanting to sell.

The stabilisation of markets on Wednesday saved managers from further embarrassment and has probably saved them from facing the awkward question of what would have happened had the market continued to plunge.

As it was the suspension enabled unit-holders to think again. Most did just that and cancelled their sell orders. Indeed, M & G reported a record trading day on Wednesday with buyers outnumbering sellers by eight to one.

But if the market had gone further down, those unit-holders denied the chance to sell early would have had a justifiable complaint.

The experience will probably have strengthened the resolve of the Securities and Investments Board to change to a forward pricing system—dealing on a price set in the future after orders have been received—which would have avoided these problems.

But according to Paul Bateman, marketing director of Save and Prosper, during the brief period when it went blind and operated a forward pricing system, unit-holders expressed their dislike of the system.

He claims that half the potential sellers withdrew their order when they found out that the market was not as bad as they had feared. Of the remainder, two out of three expressed extreme disquiet.

Finally, after the events of this week, unit-holders are being told not to panic when the market turns. However, the decision to sell tended to come from those unit-holders advised by intermediaries rather than from individual unit-holders.

Eric Short

## A new book explains the merits of investment trusts

### Safer than some

PUBLISHERS would not usually launch a book on investment trusts on a day when the FT-SE 100 index falls 250 points, about 10 per cent of the market. Investors' enthusiasm for the market tends to wane on these occasions.

Yet the title of this week's book, *More Shares for Your Money*, was very apt: this is precisely what a fall in the market means for investors.

The book, by Christine Stopp, is the latest effort made by the Association of Investment Trust Companies, the sponsor, to promote the merits of investment trusts to the ordinary investor.

In the eyes of the public, investment trusts tend to be the Cinderella of pooled equity investment vehicles, especially alongside unit trusts, in spite of the fact that, on average, investment trusts show a higher return.

The association has been trying to promote the advantages of investment trusts for over a decade, with only limited success.

Christine Stopp sets out these advantages early in the book, whetting the interest of readers before getting down to the technicalities of the genre.

Investment trust groups, almost all of which have unit trust operations, are now starting to cater for investors' needs—a range of funds, both general and specialist, different types of funds to meet the different tax positions of investors, and the introduction of savings schemes.

The book covers these new developments. Christine Stopp also describes how investment trusts are designed and how they operate.

Individuals may be deterred from the outset, simply because investment trusts are bought and sold through the stock market like any other share. With unit trusts the investor deals direct with the management group or through a local intermediary.

Christine Stopp has described in very straightforward terms

how you should go about buying and selling investment trust shares; she shows that it is not the formidable task sometimes associated with share dealings.

The book contains a list of provincial stockbrokers with whom the public can deal in investment trusts, and explains how they can meet the differing needs of investors—the widow with a modest £25,000 seeking to boost her income, the employee made redundant, the businessman with £200,000 capital available for investment.

The final section of the book has a question and answer briefing which deals with most of the queries investors would have on unit trusts, including the (very relevant) question of how investment trusts protect your investment in a bear market.

Will investment trusts ever make the same impact on investors as unit trusts? Christine Stopp compares the relative merits—but as a regular writer on unit trusts in these columns she refrains from coming down on one side or the other.

The answer, however, is probably no; and the underlying reason for this is contained in the list of the benefits of investment trusts. The charges are lower, by definition, the incentive to sell by intermediaries is lower, because their returns are lower.

The current investment scene is market driven rather than investment driven. "Best return" products are not promoted because commissions are lower. Tim Abell, the Association's chairman, who contributes a foreword to the book, hopes that the implementation of financial services legislation, with its emphasis on best advice, will redress the balance. However, he also admits regretfully that the new regime is unlikely to give investors that degree of impartial advice which would see intermediaries promoting investment trusts.

Eric Short

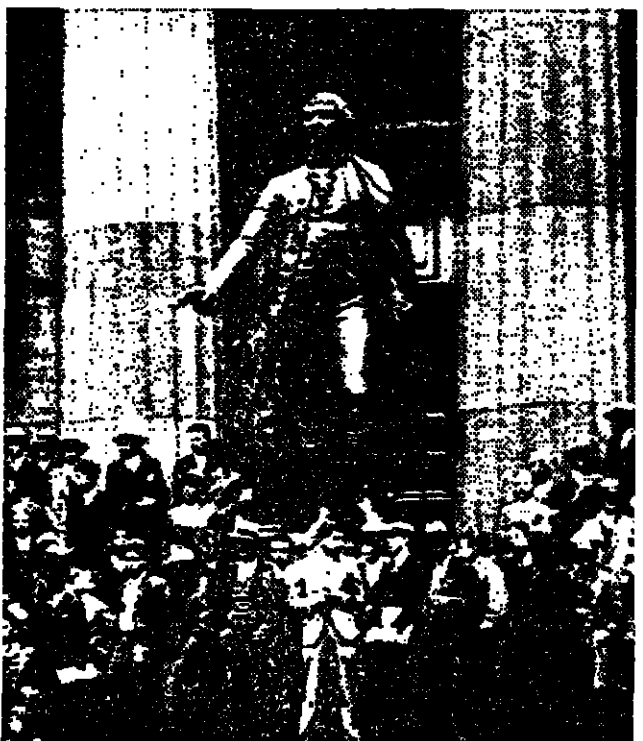


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## BRIDGE

ANOTHER book in the Master Bridge series is 100 Winning Bridge Tips, by Ron Klingner, published by Gallancie at £4.95 in paperback. Bridge expertise, the author, comes to a great extent from experience, which is something the aspiring student lacks. These tips are to speed up learning by presenting situations with which the player is unfamiliar and showing how to deal with them.

Let us start with tip 16. You know it. You go it. This is from teams-of-four:

N  
♦ J 7 3  
♥ A 9 5  
♦ A Q J 10 5 2  
♣ 10  
W  
♦ K 10 6 5 4  
♥ 8  
♦ J 3  
♥ 10 9 7 2  
♦ 8 6 3  
♣ K J 9 8 3  
S  
♦ A Q 9 2  
♥ K Q 8 4  
♦ A 6 5 4

When you are uncertain of what the final contract should be, you naturally will exchange further information with your partner, but when you know that it is, bid it without giving unnecessary clues to the opponents.

North dealt at a love score, and bid one diamond, to which South replied, with one heart, and North rebid two diamonds. In one room South knew the right contract, and jumped to three no trumps. West opened with the five of spades. South won with the queen, lost the diamond finesse but collected 11 tricks without difficulty.

In the other room, after North's rebid of two diamonds, South decided to give the opponents a guided tour round his treasury. He rebid two spades. North gave preference with three hearts, and now, too late, South said three no trumps. But the damage had been done. Warned of spades, West opened with the two of clubs. The king won, the knave was returned, and the declarer could not make more than eight tricks.

Now tip 46, trump length lead length:

N  
♦ 4 4 3  
♥ Q J 5  
♦ 7 6 3 2  
♣ A K J  
W  
♦ 9 8 5 2  
♥ 4  
♦ J 10 9 5  
♣ 7 4 3 2  
S  
♦ A K O J 10  
♥ K 10 9 7  
♦ Q  
♣ Q 8 5

North deals at game all, and after two passes South opens the bidding with one spade. North says two no trumps, not ideal but it is hard to suggest any alternative. South rebids three hearts. North corrects to three spades, and South bids four.

If West leads the singleton heart, he is lucky enough to find East with the ace, ruffs the heart return, and cashes a diamond. But then the polls are

closed, and South calls home. Holding four trumps, West should attack with his strong suit in the hope of breaching the trump fortress. He leads the diamond ace, East dropping the knave and South the queen. The king follows, the declarer ruffs, and starts to draw the trumps, and on the second round he learns the bad news.

He cannot draw the trumps without exposing himself to the

loss of two diamonds and the ace of hearts. If he switches to hearts, East wins, and another diamond leaves West with trump control.

This hand is a clear indictment of the opening lead of a singleton when the opener holds length in trumps, but some players just refuse to accept this.

E. P. C. Cotter

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## FINANCE &amp; THE FAMILY

## John Brennan finds the property market calm

## Safe as houses

AFTER TREE-EATING winds, a stockmarkets hurricane, and torrential rains, all we need to complete the picture of a grim October would be for the house price bubble to burst. But unless the equity market slide presages an economy-wide recession, there is nothing to suggest that fall share prices will result in a flood of "sell" orders for houses and flats.

Looking at the residential market from the City of London outwards, the obvious impact of the share market's roller-coaster movements has been to boost equity trading houses' commission incomes. With big pre-Christmas bonuses in prospect, far from having to hand in their Porsches, City dealers who haven't been overtrading on their own account are likely to be cash-rich and, one presumes, additionally cautious about putting their money into volatile equity markets.

Add an understandable touch of nerves about future job security to the mix and there is a potent argument for an extra surge of interest in residential investment properties, as high-earning financial services staff make use of their borrowing capacity while they can.

"We have never had so many calls since the market started to fall," says Docklands agent Alan Selby. "It has always been the case that when the stockmarket goes down residential prices go up, because where else do you put your money?" That does, of course, presuppose that there still will be investable money to be put somewhere. But short of a total collapse of the equity market, no one at the investment end of the housing market seems to be unduly worried about recent events.

There had already been a clear slow-down in the rate of price rises in London since early summer, with an equally clear price barrier emerging at or around the £175,000 to £200,000 price level for properties in Docklands and the £250,000 to £300,000 range elsewhere in Central London.

British owner-occupiers have been finding it difficult to justify the costs of trading-up from an existing home into this price range—which has become the middle ground for central London homes—while overseas buyers, and investment buyers planning to cover holding costs

Q.—Is this the end of the bull market?

A.—By most definitions, a significant bear market has been concentrated into a couple of days. Generally speaking, a 25 per cent setback amounts to a proper bear market, and a one-third retreat, as a severe one. Historically such slides have been spread over months, and more often years. This time most of the correction has been confined within the space of two days, although in fact the London equity market peak was reached back on July 16, while Wall Street touched its all-time high on August 25.

As of Tuesday night, London was 26.3 per cent off its peak in terms of the Financial Times—Stock Exchange 100 Share Index, and at its closing low on Monday Wall Street was down 33.2 per cent in terms of the Standard and Poors Composite, a broadly based index. Of course, both markets have bounced back from their low points since then.

Q. What caused the crash?

A. There are two ways of answering this question. One is that the crash was triggered by specific problems which developed in the US financial markets last week. The trade figures were terrible, and, as we now know, developing between the Americans and the Germans over US policy and the operation of the Louvre currency accord. Some also think that a tightening of money in the US was influential, with two leading banks raising their prime rates. The sunny optimism of Mr Alan Greenspan, newly installed as chairman of the US Federal Reserve, did not help.

None of this explains why the move was on such a catastrophic scale. A further answer therefore must emphasise the overvaluation of equities in recent months, especially in relation to bonds which for much of the year have actually been in their own bear market. Equities ignored this trend in bonds, but the two markets had to come together sooner or later.

The global interlinking of markets was another factor. The slump was triggered on Wall Street, and spread around the world. The downward spiral fed on itself.

Q. What lessons are there to be gained from previous market crashes?

A. This week's events were unprecedented. But history suggests that after a fall of this magnitude the confidence of investors will have been badly shaken, and will take a

long time to be rebuilt. There has been much talk of the Great Crash of 1929, but the parallels are not close. All that can be said is that the market started to rally strongly within a few weeks of the collapse that October. But it then slid right away over the next two years as it became clear that the economic policymakers were taking all the wrong decisions.

Q. Should I buy, sell or hold shares or unit trusts?

A. It depends on your willingness and ability to take risks. If you have borrowed heavily in order to buy shares at higher levels you may have no alternative but to sell. If you are not a forced seller but would still like to get out, you will probably have better opportunities to unload during the months ahead. Bargain hunting will be very risky, at least until the dust settles.

The case for holding on is that the outlook for profits and dividends still looks reasonable. Serious economic damage can be avoided provided that the economic policymakers can start to get the US back on the road to fiscal balance within the next few months. But until the outcome is clearer, investors face a bumpy ride.

Q. What is going to happen to interest rates?

A. It is remarkable how calm the money markets have been in the face of the equity market

## Plain man's guide to the crash



Richard Lambert and Barry Riley answer the financial crisis questions you were too embarrassed to ask

turnout. British interest rates having gone up earlier in the year, need not be affected. It is true that an excessive level of bank lending was revealed by figures published this week for September. But the uncertainty resulting from the equity market shakeout should itself reduce the demand for credit. Bond markets have picked up, on the view that the deflation is now becoming a greater danger than inflation.

Q. Is my pension safe?

A. If you are in an occupational pension scheme, this week's upsets are more or less irrelevant. Nearly all company

schemes are very conservatively valued, and have been overfunded. A 20 per cent fall in equity markets should easily be absorbed. But it may affect your company's hopes for a "contribution holiday."

As for personal pensions, where your investments can be directly related to stock market values, the impact will be rather more noticeable. However, all that has happened has been that the top slice of exceptional gains has been cut off. Unless you are on the point of retirement you should not be affected. All the same, the sharp setback is a reminder of the volatility of equity markets and the need to switch equity investments into more stable

assets well ahead of your retirement day.

Q. What about house prices?

There is no direct link between share prices and house prices. On the positive side, interest rates look steady and, if anything, more funds for lending will become available to the building societies because some investors will be looking for a safer home for their money. On the negative side, house prices in South-East England have been driven ahead by some of the same factors which pushed shares up to unsustainable levels. People have not cared too much about prices so long as those prices have continued to rise. This mood could change.

Q. What should I do about the BP share offer?

A. Forget it. The Government has withdrawn the advertising aimed at the casual investor who, even if the price were to rally sharply, would be ill-advised to go into a partly-paid share in wildly fluctuating markets like these. If you are really keen, wait until next Tuesday, see whether the price is right, and then put the form into a local NatWest branch before closing time.

Q. Is my money safe with my broker?

A. The enormous swings which

have taken place in the past week are bound to have put strains on even the best run firms. Stock Exchange member firms should be safe, and in any event are covered by compensation arrangements. The same may not apply to some of the fringe operators. The protection of the Financial Services Act is not yet in place, and the number of small advisers has mushroomed in a largely uncontrolled way during the long bull market.

Q. What economic policies would restore the confidence of the stock market?

A. Britain is largely on the sidelines in this. The big question is how the imbalance between the world's major economies will be resolved. The markets would like to see early action by the Americans to reduce their fiscal deficit, coupled with a controlled decline in the dollar to help with the trade numbers.

They also want relaxed monetary policies by Germany and Japan to hold down world interest rates and head off the threat of recession. The markets would react badly to any retreat into protectionism, and to signs that the Americans were trying to continue to postpone any serious decisions until after the Presidential election in a year's time.

Q. Is the stock market worthy of rational discussion?

A. When Albert Einstein went through the pearly gates, he asked the first man he met what his IQ was. On being told 210, Einstein agreed that they should work together to develop his theory of relativity. The second person's IQ was 160, and they agreed to have discussions about music and the arts. He then asked the third man the same question. "80," came the reply. "Well," said Einstein, "we could always talk about the outlook for the stock market."

## FRAMLINGTON

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From 16 November units will be allocated at the ruling offer price.

## HOW TO CASH IN

You can sell your units at any time at the bid price ruling when we receive your letter or telephone call. A cheque for the full amount is normally sent within 7 days of our receipt of your renounced certificate.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 18th October 1987 presented to His Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the dissolution of the said company, named Blackwood Hodge p.l.c., and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, W.C.2A 2LL on Monday the 2nd November 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said dissolution of the said company, should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED the 31st day of October 1987.

Slaughter and May, 25 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF.

Ref: JVL/T:RLS

Solicitors of the said Company.



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## William Cochrane meets some top investment managers

### Strategies undiverted

BRITAIN'S top investment managers have a strong sense of direction and they are not going to let an international investment collapse divert them from the paths of philosophy, and strategy as distinct from tactics.

M & G is Britain's leading unit trust group and James Shillingford, investment manager of its £500m Dividend Fund, is on his way to a position in top management as deputy managing director David Tucker moves towards early retirement next March.

Shillingford takes an uncompromising view of M & G's responsibilities. "We have a range of unit trusts," he says, "and each has its own investment strategy - from high income to recovery and growth, from the UK to America and Australia."

"We've tended to take the view that if you're selling a specialised investment concept, you need to keep the fund fairly fully invested. "It's up to the public to decide whether to stay liquid, whether to invest or not," he adds. "We don't tend to take the view that a particular sector is cheap, and that we should pile in. In that, I think we are unusual."

M & G has a successful investment philosophy, however, biased towards higher income equities and the small to medium company rather than the FT-SE index's 100 big components. It can make strategic shifts in its placement of investment funds: a year ago oil stocks were quite high-yielding, so it increased its commitment there.

Its outlook is distinctly long term. "Today, the market is 25 per cent higher than it was a year ago," said Shillingford earlier this week. "If you had predicted that rise a year ago, and acted upon it, you would be quite happy today."

Murray Johnstone is Scotland's largest independent fund manager, with some £34bn under its belt. Alistair Stewart, the director responsible for the UK and Europe in the MJ hierarchy, notes that it has a broad range of funds under management.

"The liabilities of pension funds are denominated in real terms so, here, we have to pay particular attention to investments which will maintain and increase their real value over a long period of time," he says.

"Unit trusts have different priorities. Within the industry, there is an insistence on short-term performance." But here, too, MJ have overriding principles of its own. "We have an equity valuation model which looks for good companies with sound products in good

markets," says Stewart.

"We attempt to identify good medium-term value. We might follow that model even when the companies it indicates may be less fashionable than, say, stocks in cyclical industries on the road to recovery."

MJ's major strategic shift lately has been to lighten its exposure to the highly leveraged markets of South-East Asia and to go heavier in what it has seen, ironically in this week's context, as the more broadly-based markets of the US and the UK.

Similarly, it has been reducing its commitment to southern Europe, particularly in what it regards as peripheral markets like Spain, and increasing in bedrock northern European markets like Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands.



James Shillingford M&G

## CHESS

EXPERT opinion in advance of the Seville world title match was that Kasparov, already twice a winner over Anatoly Karpov and 12 years younger, would again defeat his rival with a margin to spare. But game two of the series showed cracks in the champion's confidence and posed the question of whether Kasparov's high public profile and offboard interests could become a fatal liability.

It was Kasparov, though, who produced the first surprise, at the opening move. Throughout most of his career his favourite has been 1 P-Q4, but with frequent switches into 1 P-K4 and the Ruy Lopez. The ultra-positional openings beloved of strategists like 1 N-KB3 and 1 P-QB4, have never been part of his repertoire.

In Seville, though, he chose 1 P-QB4 for the first time ever against Karpov, echoing that day in Reykjavik 1972 when Fischer played 1 P-QB4 (1 of 1 in standard notation) and London commentators decided it must be a misprint on the agency tapes for 1 e4 (1 P-K4, said Fischer's normal choice). Whatever Kasparov's reason-

ing for 1 P-QB4, the English Opening, it rebounded. Evidently, Karpov had made a careful study of the English for his 1978 and 1981 matches against Viktor Korchnoi, and still had some unused shots in his theoretical locker. Karpov's pawn sacrifice 9... P-K6? proved a shock, and Kasparov pondered his answer for a near-record 80 minutes.

Curiously, in game four of the Seville series, Kasparov offered his opponent another chance for 9... P-K6, and Karpov declined. His alternative choice, a pawn exchange, looked inferior, so that in game four Kasparov obtained lasting pressure. Such a mysterious episode can be explained only by the players in the light of their pre-game analyses.

What did become clear from game two was that Karpov could still demonstrate the classical and logical blend of tactics and strategy which characterised his peak years in the 1970s. Rarely has Kasparov been so devastated with the white pieces, and the game should find a place in anthologies of the best world title play.

White: Kasparov, Black: Karpov. English Opening (2nd match game, Seville 1987).

7 N-KN5, B-KN; 8 N-PK3, R-K1; 9 P-B3, P-K6? The move which halted the world champion's thought train in its tracks, if 10 P-P2, Black has active play either by P-KR3; 11 N-R3, P-Q3 with B-K3 and N-K4 to follow attacking White's front QBP, or else 10... P-Q4; 11 P-P2, N-P2.

Game four went 9... P-P2; 10 N-P3, Q-K3; 11 P-R3, N-K12 N-Q4! (so that if N-P2; 13 N-B5 with a dangerous attack) N-Q6; 13 Q-K3, N-B3; 14 Q-RN, P-Q3; 15 R-B4, P-B3; 16 Q-R3, Q-K4; 17 Q-Q3, B-Q2; 18 N-B5, B-N; 19 R-E2.

Here, Kasparov has a clear advantage, with rooks in control of the KB file. Eventually, he broke through to the seventh rank and reached an endgame two pawns up.

10 P-Q3, P-Q4; 11 Q-N3, N-QR4; 12 Q-R3, P-B3; 13 P-P2, P-P2; 14 P-KB4, N-B3; 15 R-N1, Q-B2; 16 B-N2, B-N3; 17 P-B4? White's position is inferior, but the solid plan is 17 N-B3, with Q-R3 and P-B4 to follow. Kasparov overrates his attack.

17... P-P2; 18 P-P2, P-P2; 19 N-K4, K-N2; 20 P-P2, Q-R1! Black's harmoniously centralised forces defeat any white tactics. Now if 21 Q-R3, B-B4 pins the knight and threatens Q-K3 winning a piece.

21 R-N3, N-Q5; 22 R-KP, Q-QB1! Winning material by N-B7? rebounds after 23 Q-B3! N-R; 24 N-P1.

"Nobody is actually tearing their hair out at MJ over the events of the past week," says Stewart, who has not been making panic decisions. "Sitting still might sound a bit wet but it's probably not too silly a thing to be doing." And he adds: "If it's any reassurance, we can now make equity yields look good value against bonds at present market levels."

Pension funds tend to be active and inactive at the same time. Historically, their common feature is a fairly high cash inflow and, according to a senior industry executive, the problem over the years has been to get that money into the market in a manner consistent with spread of both risk and opportunity.

If a fund wished to change its exposure to a particular industry, the executive said this week, it would achieve this mostly by diverting its cashflow out of, say, Japan and into the US.

From time to time, if it became particularly negative, a fund might also try to sell out of its existing holdings. The fund in question has been selling Japanese shares into a rising market. It happens that, until this week, the market had been rising so fast that the proportion of the fund in Japan was still rising, willy-nilly.

If a pension fund is negative about all of its markets, it can keep its cashflow in liquid form. However, it does have the ability and, on development on its own account, the need to invest large sums on an annual basis. "You cannot fine-tune the property market," our man remarks.

Once again, he emphasises the long-term nature of the business. "If our employers went out of business today and stopped contributing to the fund," he says, "it could be 70 years before our last liability is cleared."



## Junk overboard

Predictions, Kevin Goldstein-Jackson finds, are more a matter of feeling than analysis

DIARY  
OF A  
PRIVATE  
INVESTOR

ON TUESDAY, with doom and gloom in the financial headlines, I had to laugh when I received in the post a circular from Mark Tier, promoting his latest report. "Some time in the next 18 months," he wrote, "I expect a worldwide collapse - a re-run of October 1929 - but first the world's stock markets could double."

His report was entitled *The Financial Panic of 1988/89* and cost \$40.

This reminded me of a book I bought a few years ago by Bob Beckman, called *Downside*, in which he predicted a stock market collapse would start in 1983/84. However, you do not get many points in the market prediction stakes for being too early or too late.

Perhaps psychologists and sociologists should forecast market trends instead of the specialists. Many of the recent dramatic rises and falls on the US and Japanese exchanges appear to me to owe as much to investors' feelings as they do to the genuine merits of those markets.

Apart from one brief foray, I have steered well clear of Japan. I therefore missed out on many spectacular price rises but, instead, made much more predictable gains on British shares.

For some time I have felt that Japanese shares were overvalued, with ludicrously high price/earnings ratios. Why should Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company have had a PE of about 300 when British Telecom's was less than 12?

In the US, the high PEs of Japanese companies were used to justify ever-rising PEs of American companies. A US stockbroker once tried to tempt me by saying: "A PE of 30 is low compared with Japan," and offered me the chance to buy the shares on margin. He would also, he said, provide me with a 50 per cent loan against the cost. I was not tempted.

Indeed, last year I reduced my US investments to two. I was concerned about such borrowing facilities being used by

millions of Americans to buy shares. What would happen if interest rates rose or the value of the shares went down?

I was also worried that sentiment about the US market would one day change abruptly and that the "herd instinct" - not wanting to be the last person out - would cause a dramatic fall in share prices.

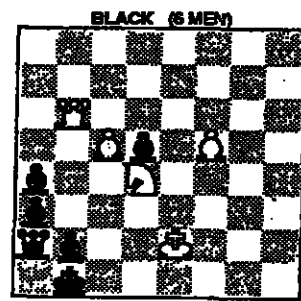
As I mentioned last week, I have been a steady seller of British shares (at good profits) since late July and have liquidated a sizeable part of my share portfolio. Thus, when the market collapse happened I was not too worried.

However, the problem with the sudden downturn in the market is that nearly all shares are marked down in price, irrespective of their individual merits, as people's "feelings" change. "Let's get out of shares," they cry, rather than "Let's get out of over-priced junk." It is only somewhat later that sentiment changes again and they reconsider certain companies.

For example, my remaining share portfolio is mainly in small, debt-free companies with under-valued assets and little connection with the US. But they, too, have been marked down in price. I hope they will be among the first shares to recover. Meanwhile, as I have cash available, suitable low bargains can be snapped up readily over the next few months.

My few investments in larger companies are in those which should eventually benefit from a market crash. For example, Lloyds has a wide range of interests, mostly outside the US, and among them are gold and platinum mining.

When share prices fell, the price of precious metals went up - and I hope Lloyds's share price also will soon recover.



WHITE (SMB)  
Solution Page XXI  
Leonard Barden

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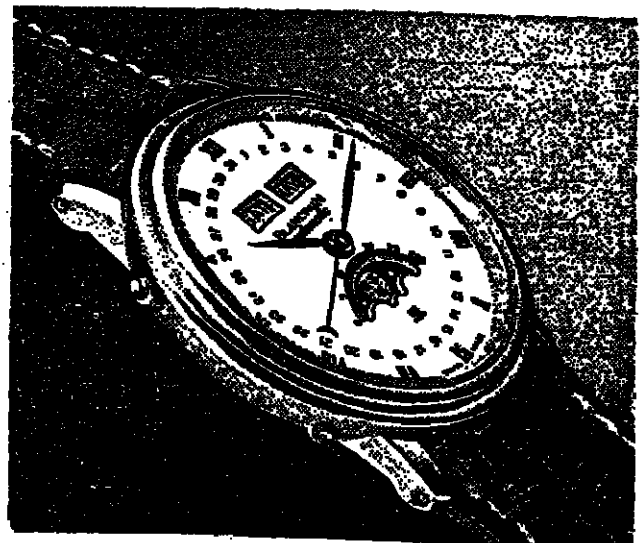
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## FINANCE &amp; THE FAMILY

## Liquidator's mistake

My mower was collected by a local garden centre to give an estimate for repair and overhaul. A price was given in writing two-three months later. There was no urgency as the mower was not required for another few months.

By the time I contacted the company it had gone into liquidation and my machine together with others had been disposed of by the liquidator.

They say the company's records were poor and it was the responsibility of the directors to tell the liquidator of any property which did not belong to them.

I maintain the onus was on the liquidator to ensure that the company was the rightful owner of any property they sold. Who is right?

The mower clearly did not belong to the company and should not have been disposed of by the liquidator. You should claim its value from the liquidator personally.

## Maintaining a child

I shall be grateful if you could let me know the maximum amount that can be paid as maintenance for a child under a court order without deduction of tax.

The maximum monthly amount which can be paid without deduction of tax to a child under 21 for his or her own benefit, maintenance and education is £208; the weekly maximum is £48. The maximum monthly amount which can be paid without deduction of tax to someone other than the

child for the child's benefit, maintenance or education is only £108; the corresponding weekly maximum is £25. These figures were set in 1986; the previous change was in 1980.

## CGT on savings

My wife and I have a joint building society account of approximately £10,000. We also individually and jointly hold shares and unit trust investments currently valued at approximately £20,000.

It appears that capital gains tax can be applied to building society savings. I wish to know in what circumstances such a change would be incurred, and how it would be calculated. I shall receive a lump sum of approximately £20,000 next year on retirement by which time our joint capital is likely to approach £50,000 and a capital gains tax charge may be payable. I would be obliged if you could advise me how indexation allowance applies to capital gains tax or what explanatory leaflets are available.

Capital gains tax has been applied to building society shares (including share accounts, as distinct from deposit accounts) ever since the tax was introduced on April 7 1985. Since building society shares are generally issued and redeemed at par, of course, there have been few chargeable gains and there were few allowable losses until April 6 1985, when the Chancellor rather belatedly introduced CGT relief for the effects of inflation upon money tied up in building society

shares (and other shares, etc.). Unfortunately, it was announced on July 3 that the Chancellor has changed his mind on this point, and that he proposes to ask Parliament next spring to remove the CGT relief from shares in building societies, co-operative societies, etc. retrospectively from July 4 this year.

If you or your wife have withdrawn any money from the building society share account since April 5 1985, therefore, it is probably worthwhile to calculate the allowable losses. Ask your tax inspector for the free explanatory pamphlet on indexation relief: CGTIS (1985). It is worth continuing to calculate the potential allowable losses on withdrawals since July 3, because it is by no means certain that a majority of MPs will endorse the Chancellor's proposed retrospective legislation in the Finance (No 2) Bill: the withdrawal of relief for inflation might, for example, be backdated only to the beginning of 1988-1989.

## The bad news...

I hold some US mutual funds which send and distribute the capital gains realised by them contrary to the practice of UK unit trusts. They distinguish between long-term capital gains which are distributed gross and short-term gains from which tax is collected.

I have included these distributions in my UK return as capital gains but, having read that dividends paid out of capital gains by a UK company were considered income, I wonder if I have been correct.

I tried to find out from my local tax office but my enquiry has been ignored as has a reminder.

Can you put my mind at rest. Are distributions out of capital gains realised by a US mutual fund to be treated for UK tax



No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

able losses on withdrawals since July 3, because it is by no means certain that a majority of MPs will endorse the Chancellor's proposed retrospective legislation in the Finance (No 2) Bill: the withdrawal of relief for inflation might, for example, be backdated only to the beginning of 1988-1989.

purposes as income or as capital gains?

We are sorry to say that such distributions are chargeable to UK income tax under case V of schedule D, in just the same way as distributions out of investment income. The fact that such distributions are exempt from US withholding tax merely means that they are fully taxable in the UK.

Write to the district inspector at your tax office and ask him or her for the address of the regional office to which you should submit a complaint that your enquiry on this point has been ignored. Contrary to the Taxpayer's Charter, if by chance you get no reply, write to the Secretary of the Board of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB.

## Second house

In addition to my main residence I own an old country bungalow on a large one-acre site. This second property was left to me by a relative in 1981 and was valued at the time at £30,000.

Neither of my sons, both over 21 years old, has a residence of his own and in order to help make a start in home ownership I intend to give them joint ownership of the second property.

Due to the building's age, condition and main construction of asbestos sheet walls and asbestos tiles it is unrealistic to repair or extend. The best long-term solution is to demolish it and to replace it with a good quality modern building.

My dilemma is, which of the following courses of action should I take:

(1) Give them the property before obtaining local authority permission to rebuild when it is low in value?

(2) This way I assume they would not be subject to CGT on the increased value obtained from an ultimate sale.

(3) Retain ownership, finance the rebuilding and then pass it over to them? The estimated cost of the new building is £60,000 with a small sale value of £140,000.

The site is in the south of England and in an area of "outstanding natural beauty" so the possibility of further development is unlikely in the foreseeable future.

As the law stands, we suggest that you adopt the second course and invite your sons to join in holdover claims (under section 79 of the Finance Act 1980) in due course. Your sons will doubtless submit main-residence notices (under sec-

tion 101(5)(a) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979) after they move in, or after the transfer of ownership—if they move in beforehand. Talk things over with the solicitor who will be acting for you in the proposed transfer: he or she will be able to guide you through the CGT and IHT maze. All good solicitors are prepared to advise on the tax aspects of domestic property transactions, as an integral part of their conveyancing service.

## No relief on losses

In February 1985 I "invested" £20,000 in a managed fund that today is worth about £24,000.

Any capital gain would have been taxed as income. Can you please tell what the situation would be if I were to recover what is left of my capital now? Can I offset the loss against current income?

No, there is no income tax relief for such losses. It is rather a pity that you did not check the tax aspects before deciding where to put your money.

## COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

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## The Investment Trust Table

The figures in the columns below are based on information supplied by the companies named, which are members of The Association of Investment Trust Companies. The figures are unaudited.

as at close of business on Monday 19th October 1987										as at 30th September 1987										as at close of business on Monday 19th October 1987										as at 30th September 1987										Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 30.9.87 (12) base=100									
Total Net Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY	Management	Share Price (pence)	Yield (%)	Net Asset Value (pence)	Geographical Spread					Gearing Factor (11) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 30.9.87 (12) base=100	Total Net Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY	Management	Share Price (pence)	Yield (%)	Net Asset Value (pence)	Geographical Spread					Gearing Factor (11) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 30.9.87 (12) base=100																								
						UK (%)	Nth. Amer. (%)	Japan (%)	Other (%)	UK (%)									Nth. Amer. (%)	Japan (%)	Other (%)																												
523	<b>CAPITAL &amp; INCOME GROWTH</b>	Independently managed	884	4.0	1029	45	42	7	6	94	318	188	<b>INCOME GROWTH</b>	Ivory & Sims	79	4.2	121	58	24	6	14	93	379																										
158	Alliance Trust	Touche, Remenant	84	2.5	89	50	29	18	6	104	412	86	British Assets	Dunedin Fund Managers	446	4.1	529	97	2	1	1	106	375																										
115	British Investment	Independently managed	584	4.0	688	59	19	16	6	91	327	66	General Consolidated Δ	Independently managed	407	4.9	453	75	21	1	4	90	374																										
100	Brumans	Kleinwort Greaveson	131	2.7	146	68	20	2	15	102	349	1	Investors Capital Trust	Ivory & Sims	366	4.9	411	88	1	1	10	103	691																										
691	Edinburgh Investment (w)	Dunedin Fund Managers	174	3.0	214	61	16	12	11	97	353	138	Lowland	Henderson	240	2.5	211	88	1	1	1	103	674																										
837	Foreign and Colonial	Foreign and Colonial	116	2.2	137	42	27	14	17	107	418	220	Murray Income	Murray Johnstone	159	4.6	186	80	15	1	5	98	382																										
1022	Globe	Independently managed	153	3.5	200	16	6	4	10	4	409	289	Murray International	Murray Johnstone	206	4.5	237	77	10	1	13	104	470																										
619	Govett Strategic	John Govett	365	1.4	439	66	7	5	23	129	482	153	Rabtree	Leasard Securities	194	3.9	225	80	28	11	11	96	353																										
16	Joe Holdings	Kleinwort Greaveson	203	2.5	215	90	3	1	7	98	488	222	Securities Trust of Scotland	Martin Currie Inv. Man.	119	3.5	124	68	19	9	8	102	414																										
127	Keynotes	Mercury Asset Man.	345	2.2	1	67	24	5	9	109	367	15	<b>SMALLER COMPANIES</b>	Ivory & Sims	113	1.2	121	10	2	1	100	98	370																										
10	Kleinwort Charter	Kleinwort Greaveson	130	2.9	135	75	15	5	1	99	442	26	Continental Assets (w)	Dunedin Fund Managers	123	2.3	369	87	10	2	1	106	497																										
69	Lancashire & London (q)	Finbury Finance	118	4.4	128	95	5	1	1	99	442	65	Dunelm & London	Independently managed	268	2.3	289	66	23	9	2	105	470																										
69	Maldrum	Gartmore	152	2.8	176	95	4	1	1	99	442	95	F & C Alliance	Ivory & Sims	83	1.7	91	51	23	12	14	103	362																										
69	S. & P. Risk of Assets (w) Δ	Savoy & Prosper Group	190	2.4	300	88	12	1	20	103	409	47	First Charlotte	Independently managed	19	3.5	1	1	1	1	1	98	362																										
23	Scottish & Mercantile (q)	Finbury Finance	144	4.4	128	95	5	1	1	99	442	37	Flamingo Repeating	Kleinwort Greaveson	600	2.2	598	99	19	1	1	100	572																										
592	Scottish Mortgage	Ballie, Gifford	122	2.3	145	52	18	10	20	110	411	268	Kleinwort Securities Co.	Investors in Industry	355	2.8	411	78	8	1	14	98	415																										
177	Second Alliance	Independently managed	769	3.8	917	47	41	7	5	95	326	34	London Atlantic	Gartmore	273	1.6	280	77	21	1	6	100	418																										
702	TR Industrial & General	Touche, Remenant	125	1.4	29	20	10	1	1	101	452	74	Moorgate (w)	Independently managed	235	3.2	242	80	1	1	1	107	522																										
551	Wilton (w)	Henderson	138	2.0	165	60	19	8	13	104	452	24	North British Canadian	Investors in Industry	151	3.7	37	2	1	1	1	107	522																										
19	United Kingdom	Hambros Bank	89	2.7	92	97	3	1	1	103	460	268	Scottish American	Martin Currie Inv. Man.	220	2.4	229	69	17	8	6	100	404																										
60	City of Oxford	Robert Fleming	280	2.6	318	100	6	1	1	103	460	34	Smaller Companies Int.	Edinburgh Fund Mgrs.	139	1.0	155	80	8	12	15	107	423																										
70	Fleming Cleverhouse	Glasgow Inv. Man.	198	10.2	260	84	6	1	6	81	287	304	Stella Investments (w) Δ	Henderson	139	0.5	161	54	20	11	16	108	568																										
192	Shires (w)	Touche, Remenant	77	4.0	90	91	9	1	1	101	452	386	TR Trustees Corp.	Touche, Remenant	123	2.4	154	73	20	6	1	108	568																										
175	TR City of London	Guinness Mellon Inv. Man.	223	4.0	270	99	1	1	1	111	452	58	Throymorton (w)	Throymorton Inv. Man.	499	2.6	616	99	1	1	1	110	562																										
175	Temple Bar	Henderson	138	2.0	165	60	19	8	13	104	452	58	<b>SPECIAL FEATURES</b>	J. Rothchild	176	1.9	179	58	24	6	14	93	399																										
351	<b>CAPITAL GROWTH</b>	General	469	2.0	548	46	20	21	13	99	366	212	Alisa Δ	MMI	225	0.1	219	38	20	4	1	80	379																										
157	Anglo & Overseas	Morgan Grenfell	59ac	1.2	87ac	33	65	1	2	101	218	6	Consolidated Venture (w)	MMI	514	2.9	611	78	16	4	2	95	384																										
115	Atlantic Assets (w)	Ivory & Sims	109ac	1.3	119ac	33	65	1	2	104	460	212	Dreyton Consolidated	Merchand Navy Inv. Man.	132	2.4	157	100	7	1	1	109	485																										
43	Electric & General	Henderson	503	0.5	482	59	9	3	29	114	539	6	Ensign Trust	Robert Fleming	206	2.5	242	75	23	1	2	80	362																										
9	Greenwich (w)	Ivory & Sims	59	1.2	55	74	21	1	1	84	54	389	Flamingo Enterprise	Robert Fleming	206	2.5	242	75	23	1	2	80	362																										
106	International	GT Management	809	0.5	384	62	12	4	15	80	420	43	Hambros Advanced Tech.	"Top Technology"	193	0.0	184	78	22	1	1	98	362																										
111	Child Health (w) Δ	Thornhill & Co.	55	0.0	61	84	12	2	52	127	501	43	Kleinwort Development	Kleinwort Greaveson	250	2.7	265	100	2	1	1	98	362																										
39	English & Scottish	Gartmore	138	1.7	135	43	24	5	28	96	392	74	London Asset Ventures (w)	Hambros & Quirk	62	0.0	1	1	1	1	1	90	401																										
270	F&C Eurotrust	Foreign & Colonial	250	1.0	276	8	1	1	82	111	502	155	Murray Ventures (w)	Murray Johnstone	293	2.5	314	83	8	2	7	90	401																										
22	Fleming Overseas	Robert Fleming	158	1.3	203	11	43	19	27	96	307	40	TR Property	Touche, Remenant	104	1.8	116	79	5	4	12	98	419																										
270	Fleming Universal	Robert Fleming	158	1.3	203	11	43	15	24	100	323	30	Throymorton USM (w) Δ	Throymorton Inv. Man.	148	1.5	201	99	1	1	1	105	419																										
70	Gartmore European (w)	Gartmore	375	0.8	409	22	5	1	73	103	306	58	Value and Income (w)	Stewart Old	55	3.1	58	98	1	1	1	125	419																										
70	Gartmore	Gartmore	64	2.4	76	75	21	1	4	105	250	58	<b>SPLIT CAPITAL (c)</b>	MMI	1400	1	1485	80	9	2	2	105	468																										
22	Gartmore Indfin. & Fin. (w)	Gartmore	64	2.4	76	75	21	1	4	105	250	45	Capital & Commercial	MMI	615	1	654	77	10	11	2	103	484																										
8	German Securities (w)	Leichtenstein (UK)	94	1.0	109	1	100	9	100	9	386	69	Fundinvest	Thornhill & Co.	391	1	440	32	12	2	54	139	507																										
183	Hambros	Hambros Bank	230	3.0	260	63	27	1	9	105	386	69	Marine Adventure	Thornhill & Co.	391	1	440	32	12	2	54	139	507																										
129	"Investing Success" (w) Δ	Dunedin Fund Managers	130	1.7	130	14	1	1	12	115	1	113	New Trug. (1983) (w)	Throymorton Inv. Man.	125	1	244	96	1	1	1	116	1	1																									
143	Kleinwort Overseas	Kleinwort Greaveson	146	2.3	173	11	43	9	87	103	329	69	River & Merc. Trust (w)	River & Merc. Inv. Man.	100	1	187	73	27	1	1	97	1	1																									
13	Mal Wynd International	Ballie, Gifford	261	1.5	262	27	25	12	36	95	452	69	River Plate & General	Thornhill & Co.	98	1	187	73	27	1	1	97	1	1																									
254	Monks	Ballie, Gifford	261	1.5	262	27	25	12	36	95	452	69	S. & P. Linked	Savoy & Prosper Group	770	1	1181	100	1	1	1	97	1	1																									
14	North Atlantic Securities Δ	Mercury Johnstone	211	1.1	216	19	11	13	6	89	679	121	Scottish National	Thornhill & Co.	418	1	786	100	1	1	1	97	1	1																									
85	North Atlantic Securities Δ	GT Management	69	0.4	91	6	1	1	94	109	1	63	Throymorton Dual Δ	Thornhill & Co.	418	1	786	100	1	1	1	97	1	1																									
190	Northern American	Morgan Grenfell	396	1.2	440	1	35	35	29	96	329	121	Triplast	Thornhill & Co.	1685	1	1771	91	8	1	1	108	1	1																									
36	Northern American	Dunedin Fund Managers	406	1.8	508	27	24	21	28	101	325	63	Yeoman (q) Δ	Thornhill & Co.	1685	1	1771	91	8	1	1	108	1	1																									
190	Northern Securities	GT Management	843	1.1	330	84	10	1	1	415	1	58																																					
12	Paribas French	Paribas Asset Man.	373	0.0	81	84	10	1	100	84	1	58																																					
8	Primadona	Independently managed	196	0.0	176	45	28	1	25	100	1	58																																					
123	Romney	Leasard Brothers	375	1.8	429	13	37	28	22	98	314	58																																					
510	Schroder Global	Schroder Inv. Man.	229	3.5	269	36	37	11	15	98	308	58																																					
68	Scottish Assets (w)	Martin Currie Inv. Man.	127	6.7	97	9	13	12	117	77	362	58																																					
910	Scottish Inv. Trust (w)	Independently managed	891	2.4	511	41	28	11	20	107	362	58																																					
21	Stratton Inv. Trust	Baring Inv. Man.	123	0.3	140	58	18	12	12	108	1	58																																					
118	Telone	Baring Inv. Man.	187	2.5	217	53	32	11	14	99	385	58																																					
74	USDC	GT Management	156	3.0	171	58	28	3	11	105	1	58																																					
139	<b>North America</b>	Edinburgh Fund Mgrs.	139	3.2	152	25	75	1	1	101	254	58																																					
155	Amesbury	Ivory & Sims	107	0.8	124	19	77	2	2	120	252	58																																					
116	Edinburgh Amer. Assets	Robert Fleming	128	1.7	139	2	98	1	1	98	254	58																																					
32	Fleming American	Gartmore	150	1.3	157	1	77	1	1	108	254	58																																					
32	Gartmore American Secs.	Gartmore	150	1.3	157	1	77	1	1	108	254	58																																					
67	Govett Atlantic	John Govett	126	3.3	132	21	77	1	1	106	254	58																																					
37	TR North America	Touche, Remenant	91	3.0	104	8	92	1	1	94	241	58																																					
20	<b>Far East</b>	Clyton Robard (UK)	105	1.8	119	1	1	1	100	98	1	58																																					
158	Australia (w																																																



## TRAVEL • MOTORING •

Roland Adburgham test-runs  
some Austrian ski slopes

## Tyrolean sparkle

AT 9 am, the village was still swathed in a cloud that had brought the previous night's snowfall. It was 10 degrees Celsius below freezing. The chairlift, winding its laborious way up the mountain, was virtually empty.

Then, as it climbed above the treeline, there was one of those moments which can transform the most disenchanted skier, cursing everything from traumatised toes to icy eyebrows, into a state of exhilaration.

At 1,500 metres, the chairlift emerged into sparkling sunshine. All around, the mountain peaks floated like icebergs on the sea of clouds in the valley. At the highest point of the piste, there huddled a hermit-sized, shingle-roofed, stone chapel with a lonely bell. Just below, a short traverse away across the snow, a timbered gasthof offered temporal comfort.

The setting was Niederau in the Tyrol and the promise of such pleasures is one reason why Austria remains the favourite destination of British skiers. It is claimed by the national tourist office that as many British skiers go there as to all other skiing countries put together. Seasoned skiers may want to search further afield, but even they will acknowledge that Austria epitomises what, maybe folksy, but still alluring, image of a winter sports holiday.

There are the onion-domed, pastel-washed churches, mellow chalets with log stacks outside, sleigh rides through fairy-tale forests, chamois deer skulls nailed to the wooden walls of the gasthofs, and where there is gulasch soup and green beef mixed with fried potatoes, and *jägerste* (the latter a comatous combination of two fingers of rum, two of schnapps and just one of tea.)

At the mountain-side taverns, warmed by woodburning stoves, there is an amiability not always shown in other countries to the foreign skier—even the reticent guard dogs are more soppy than slaving.

There is a cleanliness unassociated with rustic charm—more than likely, the taverns will have

pristine electronically-fused-toilet facilities.

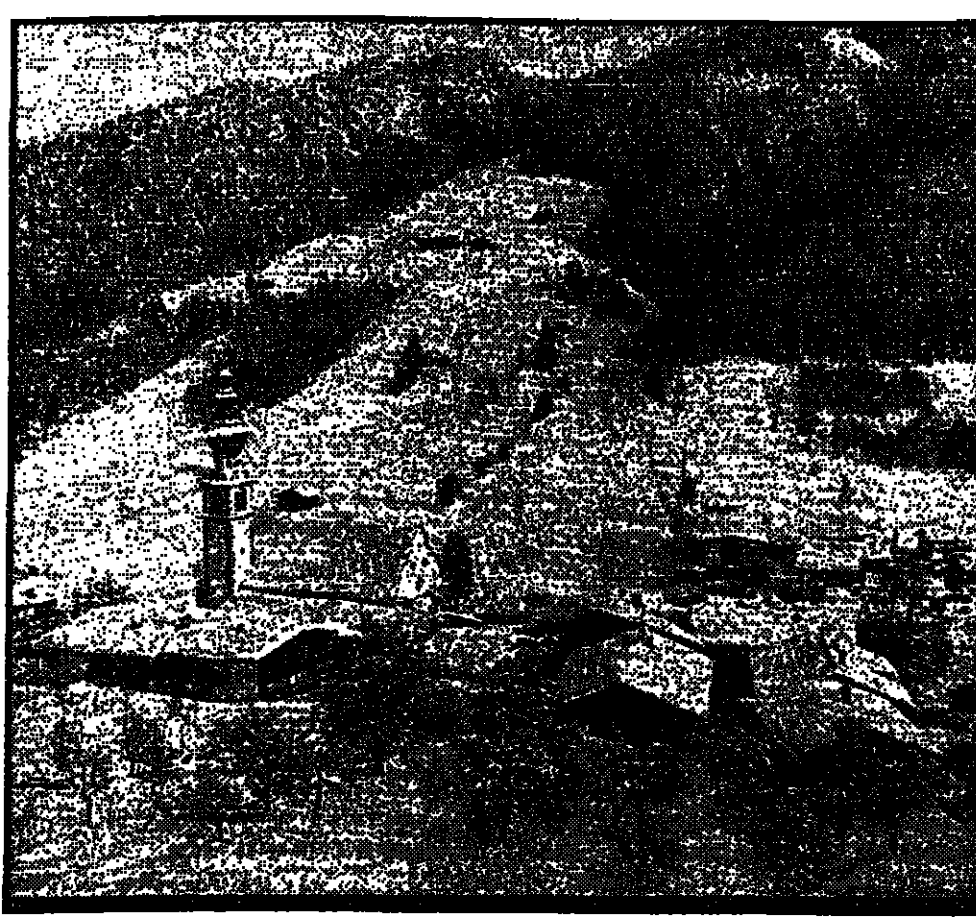
Last January, I tried two variations on the Tyrolean theme: Innsbruck and the Wildschönau valley, 30 km west of Kitzbühel. Both areas, in their differing ways, give an uplifting insight into all that is offered by downhill skiing.

Innsbruck, despite being familiar as the home of the 1964 and 1976 winter Olympics, does not strike one as an obvious choice for a skiing holiday. Few British tour operators put up their clients in the city itself—it is more popular with Americans, who like the comforts of a well-heeled city (it has a population of 120,000). But Innsbruck, given that it has no fewer than 10,000 hotel beds, wants to attract more winter visitors.

The city sees itself as appealing to a special category: families and groups where not all members want to punish the pistes (or themselves) and where some want the distractions of an 800-year-old cosmopolitan city—the cobbled old town, with its "romantic" restaurants and roccoco cathedral, is preserved and restored to an operatic degree.

Its airport, to which Dan Air flies, offers some of the shortest transfers: possible—10 minutes from airport to hotel. A Club Innsbruck card, membership free for anyone who stays at least three nights in the city, acts as a bus pass to the five skiing areas within reach, all covered by the Innsbruck ski school. The school is organised on Austria's well-proven principles, with instructors of elegant style and idiomatic English. ("Look into the eye of hell," was our instructor's constant exhortation to face the steepest part of the slope.)

The skiing in the five areas is individually limited and unlinked but not without variety. There is *Iglis*, featured by several British tour operators, and with the 4.7km Olympic men's downhill run. The sluttish "autobahn" runs and a vertiginous view of Innsbruck far below, straddling the bottle-green ribbon of the River



Oberau is in the Wildschönau valley, typical of the smaller Tyrolean ski areas

Inn. At Axamer Lizum, which is purely a ski station and has the widest choice of runs, a funicular whisks skiers sky-bound to over 2,300 metres.

The pistes there include the sweeping run of the Olympic women's downhill in the shadow of the fierce Kalkkogel precipices. An entrancing 7km run flows through the trees to the farming village of Grotzen, with freestone farmhouses and one of the finest baroque churches in the Tyrol. The drawback to Innsbruck is commuting by skibus: it takes at least half an hour to reach the slopes. Once there, you can be stranded: the bus is not a shuttle and an early return, before the lifts close, might require a cab—or ideally your own car.

In contrast to the urbanised flavour of Innsbruck, the Wildschönau valley is typical of the smaller Tyrolean ski areas. There are three villages, of which Niederau is the largest; the local tourist literature boasts that each has its own "folklore groups, brass band and fire brigade." Its easygoing style may not be chic and nor is it cheap (a glühwein can cost £2), but it does provide that anticipated atmosphere. It is beginners and early intermediates who will most enjoy the region. The Wild-

schönau is not as rugged as it sounds and most of the skiing is below the treeline, on wide pistes rather than icy funnels. Although its hills are relatively low, the valley is said to be in a "snow pocket" with reliable conditions.

A regular bus from Niederau runs to Oberau and Aufach, which from 1,900 metres has a range of runs opened up two years ago by a long gondola lift, whereas Niederau relies on two chairlifts for the initial climb and these can become clogged with people as ski school starts.

The ski school at Niederau is run by Sepp Schellhorn, who has down-to-piste advice on the bewildering choice of evermore high-tech skis: "All you need is good edges and, if you like going fast, a longer ski

and, if not, a shorter ski because it is easier to turn." Should one doubt his word, he has, at his pension guesthouse, an unarguable array of 220 silver cups and trophies.

Sepp is a laconic man, born in the valley and with no reason to leave. On a day of clear sun and fresh powder, he merely comments: "Weather fantastic, snow fantastic." Most skiers would find those words sufficient.

Resort details and further information from Austrian National Tourist Office, 30 St. George Street, London W1R 0AL (tel: 01-629 0451). Dan-Air has a scheduled service from Gatwick to London, to Innsbruck on Saturdays and Sundays from December 19 to March 26; Apex return fare £115.

IF LONDON'S cars-only Motorfair and last month's vast Frankfurt Show have anything in common, it is the near-monopoly of really interesting exhibits held by the Japanese manufacturers. Just consider two of the stars of the show—the Honda Prelude with four-wheel steering and the Toyota Celica GT-Four.

Four-wheel steering, I am firmly convinced, will be seen in a few years' time as a watershed as significant as Audi's introduction of permanent four-wheel drive for road-going cars with the Quattro turbo coupe of 1980.

At the moment, the two-litre, 16-valve fuel injected Prelude is the only car you can buy with 4WS. It costs £14,100 with a five-speed manual gearbox, £14,850 with two-range (sport and economy) automatic transmission. It ought to be Car of the Year 1988, or at least be second favourite for the award after the BMW 750i V12.

That is my view but I doubt it will be the jury's. The 50-plus members have nationalistic feelings and a Japanese car has never won. I will be looking at the runners and riders next week.

The Toyota Celica GT-Four is on show at Motorfair (it is not on sale in Britain until early next year at a price expected to be just under £21,000). It has a two-litre, four-cylinder, 16-valve engine, turbo-charged and intercooled and putting out 185 horsepower at 6,000 rpm compared with the standard Celica GT's 147 horsepower.

It is expected to be the first car to be available in Britain fitted with a catalytic converter to clean up the exhaust to the strictest European standards, and its lead-free fuel. The GT-Four looks much the same as the normal Celica GT but has wider tyres, ABS brakes and a knock sensor to prevent poor grade fuel from damaging the engine.

The transmission splits the drive equally between front and rear wheels. That means GT-Four owners will be able to exploit its massive 200 bhp on wet roads as easily as on dry ones, and will not find themselves stuck on gentle hills when the first snow falls. Air-conditioning is part of the package. So are power steering, electric windows and central locking.

If you want to know what a high-technology sports car of the early 1990s will look like—always assuming that such things will still be legal—imagine a developed version of the GT-Four with four-wheel steering, or a turbocharged Honda Prelude 4WS with all-wheel drive. It is a safe bet that such a car will be Japanese.

A four-wheel-steered Mazda 626 GT coupe is on show at Motorfair and goes on sale in the UK next spring. And Subaru, which pioneered selectable four-wheel-drive for road cars of modest performance more than 10 years ago, has realised that high-performance 4x4s need a permanently-engaged system. The new 4WD XT sports coupe has one, with a choice of five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission.

After the innovative technology of the Japanese exhibitors, the European makers' stands at Motorfair may seem a bit tame. The best they can

Robin Lane Fox wakes up to Swiss prices

## EC surplus on skis

FOR A WEEK, my family was "le roast-beef," hanging on meat hooks. We were even dumped on a European mountain. Are tourists, now, being added to the EC meat surplus? In fact, the mountain was just below Mont Blanc; "le roast-beef" was the locals' name for a English ski-novice; the meat hooks were those dangling bits of metal which haul beginners up a gentle slope. And we were not trying family life in cold storage. Late in time, we were learning to ski.

Non-skiers probably share the four beliefs with which we began: in a week, nobody can learn much; there is a high chance of breaking a leg aged 40, with long limbs, you have little hope of overtaking the under-12s; nowadays you have to pick your country carefully. Two of the four turned out to be true.

If sterling crises usually pass you by a day with ski-bags at Geneva airport will wake you up. It would have cost us £60 to leave our luggage for five hours in the baggage-dump; another £30 would have taken us from the airport to the station and back again. Evidently, Switzerland is out of the question for the non-City family man. One dinner and a day on the Swiss meat hooks would have bled this bit of roast-beef white.

For the money, it has to be France or Italy. Fortunately, we had been invited to France, up into the Haute Savoie to the pistes above the small town of Megève.

Buses run early or late in the day from Geneva, an hour-and-a-half's journey, taxis are only £10, more if you are travelling with a family, but do try to hire one from Megève itself so as not to pay in Swiss francs. If the journey seems long, console yourself that Zermatt would be very much further. Hardened skiers must reckon to pay the cost of another full airfare from Gatwick to Geneva in order to cart their family from the air-

port to the snow line and back again.

Change your money, too, before you leave Britain. No bank in the mountains offers a rate within 5 per cent of the officially quoted exchange-rate, even for a traveller's cheque, and commission is extra. Otherwise, Megève has particular charm. The snow is suitable until mid-April; two days out of eight were wet or windy, apparently a fair average for the sport. The town centre is chic, but not too spoilt. And no-

body wears national dress or plays the accordion.

Admittedly Megève has a history as an alternative resort. It was put on the ski-map by Baron Maurice de Rothschild when he could no longer bear St. Moritz. The Baron wished to ski without seeing or hearing Germans (it was, I admit, 1916). Nowadays, skiers can compensate by buying the Baron de Rothschild's romantic memoirs, on sale at the foot of the main lifts.

Leg-breaking, like Germans, was not in evidence. In the 1960s, nothing did more to kick us from family snow-holidays in winter, my parents' bent us on horseback for safety, since when there has been a revolution in ski-lengths and fittings. Skis are shorter and the safety binding is to novice skiers what the drop noseband is to riders: it stops you twisting your leg into pieces and greatly speeds up the learning-curve.

Agility is not the children's problem, but do you simply abandon them in ski-school? If you are a ski-starved nanny, it pays to be tough. "Unless you both stop crying and get into your different classes," I heard one shouting. "I'll put you both at the top of the highest mountain and leave you to find your own way down. Now, Jacques, which is the biggest mountain after Mont Blanc?"

Forwarned, we avoided ski-school (£8 an hour) and used a personal tutor (£12 an hour)—twice the price but ten times the value. After six hours' teaching, the children were off the nursery-slopes, chortling down a medium-steep piste and regarding snow-plough turns with the contempt which newcomers reserve for their recent past. It is quite untrue that children need a fortnight to get anywhere. Pay for private lessons and save the time abroad.

What, lastly, about the over-40s? It depends, I think if they really want to learn and if they have ever loved horses. Half an hour's sidestepping uphill may make you wonder, for snow-plough stops are not well suited to the man with long legs and a history of cartilage problems.

Two difficulties beset me. When going directly downhill, a sudden homing-device seemed to draw me straight into the groups of little Arab princes who were trying to ski without foreign collision on the lower nursery slopes. Before long, the "sport" turned out to be a solitary competition. Like golf, it is merely played against oneself.

It might, I suppose, compare with galloping, but no British ski-tourist manages jumping. For the mature horseman, level ground and two bits of wood are a very poor substitute. It might seem friendlier if the ski-tips could be fitted with imitation horse-shoes, but where is the shared relationship with an animal's will—bouncy, unpredictable, and responsive to love and correction?

major on its British-made Bluebird saloons and hatchbacks. Peugeot is exhibiting a pair of the new 405s, although the Coventry-assembled cars with right-hand drive will not be on sale until early next year.

Porsche has some new variants of the evergreen 911, of which 250,000 have now been made. Renault's stand features the very fast and refined 21 Turbo, due in Britain next spring.

Also on the Renault stand is the Vesta 1.25 miles per gallon (1.94 litres/100 km) super economy concept unveiled at Frankfurt. This four/5 seat micro-light motor car could be the shape of things to come, especially if there is another oil crisis in the next five years. Seat, too, is aiming near the bottom of the market with a five-door version of its Ibiza 900 although the three-door continues to be available.

Toyota's new Corolla range, which accounted for almost 50 per cent of the importer's British sales last month, is worth a look because each of the models, from the 1.3 engine family saloon to the very fast 16-valve GT, is as good as anything in its class.

The large Vauxhall Senator is a Granada—even a BMW—rival and new for Britain is a GTE version of the Nova, said to be good for about 110 mph (177 kmh) and due in the spring.

Volkswagen has increased the list of factory-aided options available on the Polo, Golf, Scirocco and Passat and Volvo's stand features the restyled 760. The bonnet is lower and less angular and the independent rear suspension is the first on a Swedish-built Volvo.

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## Weekend Business

### GLASNOST MEANS BUSINESS

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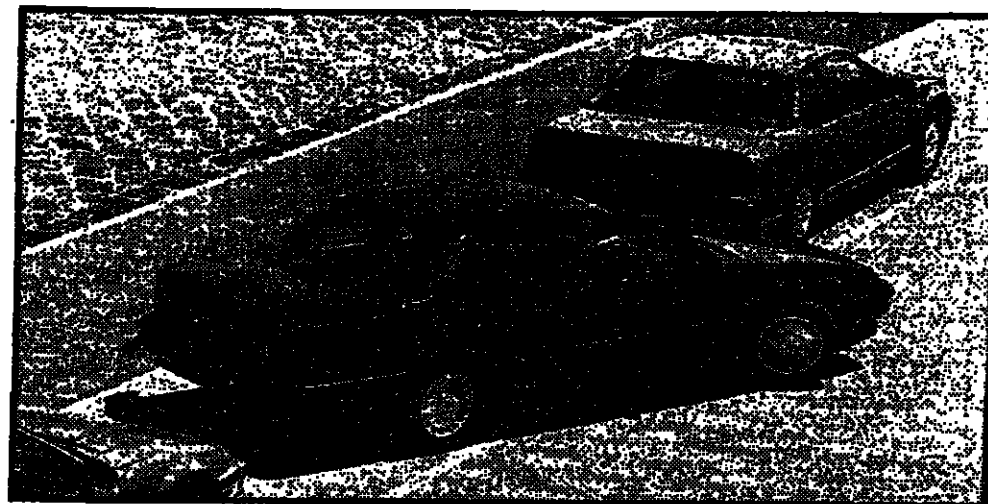
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### Stuart Marshall reviews Motorfair

## Stars to stare at



Parking on a sixpence: the 4WS Honda Prelude

manage are developed versions of existing products—although some are exceedingly desirable motor cars, for all that.

If you go to Motorfair (it is open daily from 10.00 to 7.30 until tomorrow week, when it closes at 5.00) feast your eyes on the V12 BMW 750iL, even if its £53,750 tag makes it only the stuff of which dreams are made. One consolation: even if you had the money you could not buy one until late 1988, because the entire first-year allocation of 200 was sold before a single car arrived.

The Mercedes 280 and 300 CE coupes are worth a close look,

too, because they will be rarities for many months. With the smoothest styling of any Mercedes, they drip with sound if conventional engineering and have seat belts that hand themselves automatically to driver and front passenger.

All Audi Quattros now have ABS brakes as standard. Austin Rover is showing a 1275 Metro Sport with a 73 bhp engine at a reasonable £5,800, although whether performance-minded driver would settle for a four-speed gearbox and an aged push-rod engine is questionable. The Citroën AX GT makes its world debut at Motorfair. Ford

has new LX specification Escorts and Orion and any of these cars, petrol or diesel engine, may have the Ford-Lexus extra cost. The Escort Cabriolet can be had with a power-operated hood.

At a down-to-earth £4,998, Hyundai is showing a "starter" version of the Pony three-door hatchback aimed at first-time new car buyers who are short of funds but want something better than an Eastern bloc antique. Jaguar is showing its 1988 models, which have gone up in price slightly but have improved specifications. Nissan

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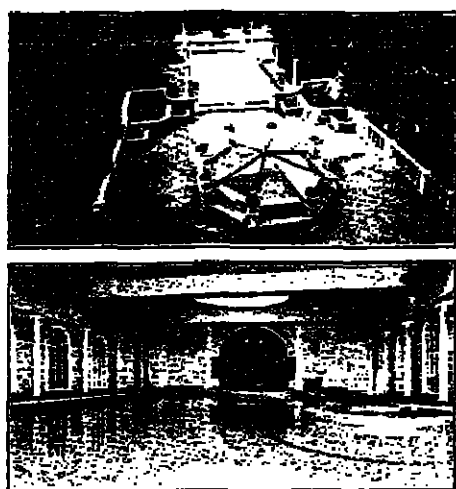
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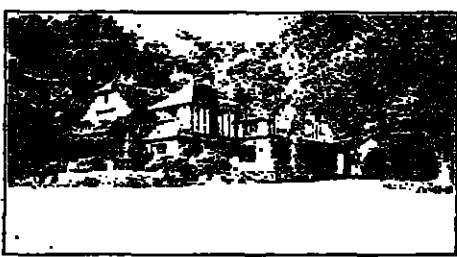


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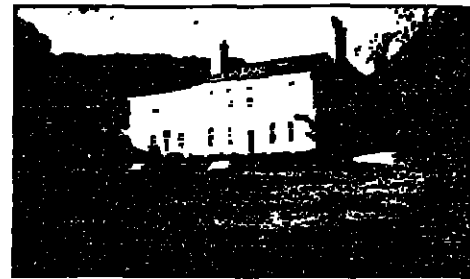
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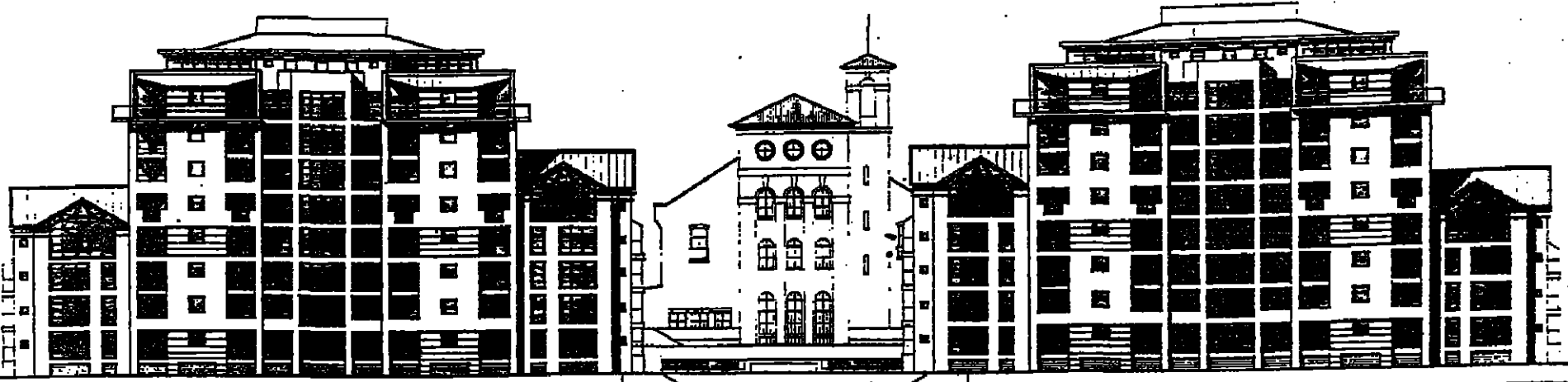
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## PROPERTY



An artist's view of the riverfront elevation proposed for Burrell's Wharf on the Isle of Dogs

## Into the price barrier

IN AN AGE of residential alchemy the least prepossessing buildings can be transformed into homes. Immerse an electricity sub-station, a bus depot, a semi-detached council tower block or any warehouse you care to mention in a rich enough mixture of high-priced demand for homes, and out pops yet another prime flats conversion positively oozing character. Trafalgar House's Ideal Homes have achieved just such a transformation in Chelsea with a strikingly successful reconstruction of the former Kensington & Chelsea Moravian Tower. A council high-rise now renamed 355 King's Road, Fitch & Co applied its office and retail design skills to a re-cladding and interior rebuilding job that has converted an unsuccessful, leaking concrete slab of a building into 50 good one, two and three bedroom flats plus three substantial, newly-built duplex penthouse flats.

More than 500 people turned up to view the flats in the first three days of pre-selling the block, and all 50 of the flats in the first 12 floors of the block have been reserved at prices from £120,000 for a 500 sq ft one-bedroom flat to £250,000 for 900 sq ft, three-bedroom units. Ranging from £240 to around £280 a sq ft, the flats in 355 King's Road are not out of line with conversion space in SW3, and as Peter Farrar of sole agents Farrar Stead & Glyn (01-351 3551) says: "Sales have been about evenly spread between investors, owner-occupiers and people who want a pied-a-terre in town."

The flats are being completed from the top down, with completion dates into early spring next year. The penthouses won't be formally marketed until January, and although prices haven't been fixed, after the sales success so far, Farrar says: "We'll be in terms of half a million, plus."

Put an "E1" rather than an

"SW3" postcode on a reconstruction project and, given the traditional fashion bias towards west central London, one would assume that different pricing standards apply. It would seem reasonable that flats on the King's Road would sell at a premium to equivalent flats on West Ferry Road on the Isle of Dogs.

However, residential costs per square foot are not dissimilar, and in some Docklands development schemes are substantially higher than in Chelsea.

Since there have been more examples of residential alchemy in London docklands than anywhere else in the country, it's fair to ascribe a special status to Wapping, Limehouse, the Isle of Dogs, the Royals and Beckton, as well as the southern stretches of former wharfside territory on the south bank by the City and along to the Surrey Docks.

But much of that special status dates from the days when riverside warehouse conversions were a novelty. That was before much of the new building moved from meliorated warehouses close to the City to what are often bleak open sites (which are near the City as the crow flies, but which do not feel anything like as near if you are not a crow and have to hiccup along at a stately pace on the Docklands Light Railway, brave floods and open piers by boat, or drive through the building sites on roads that will be, but are not as yet, substantially improved).

£200 to £200 plus per square foot for riverside apartments in Wapping is one thing but head further east to the Isle of Dogs

and, when you can still find prices at that level being quoted for flats; it is not unduly surprising to discover that, as Martin Burney of the Docklands Property Centre says: "Developments are hitting a price barrier."

Burney is remarkable among residential agents in being one of the most universally disapproved of salesmen in the business. You would have to travel a long way in Docklands to find anyone whose name turns up

square foot. "In many of the developments the cheaper flats sell out immediately, but the bigger, more expensive ones have got stuck. Developers have to ask themselves if they are selling the right product."

He believes that selling prices may have moved more into line with Docklands' asking prices 'next year while it is a hard slog for agents holding £200,000-plus properties on their books when most of their clients are in

owner of the 4.5 acre site, Kentish Homes.

Recognising the current state of the local market, Kentish has purposefully aimed the first, 94-flat phase of the development at buyers in the £110,000 to £115,000 price range with a number of larger units priced up to £150,000.

In a part-refurbishment, part-rebuilding of two existing parallel rows of early Victorian industrial buildings, the first phase will create four decks of 650 to 700 sq ft studios and flats, with a number of 850 sq ft units at the ends of the buildings. These flats don't have direct river views, and some will lose their existing sideways glimpse of the river when the next phase of flats are built. But the prices recognise that.

Phase two consists of two new nine-storey blocks planned for the river front of the site where starting, almost triangular-shaped apartments have been designed which allow for a river view from every single room. These flats haven't been priced yet, but Kentish's chairman, Keith Preston, and sales agent Alan Selby are currently talking in terms of £220,000 to £250,000 a time for these 800 to 900 sq ft flats.

What helps to lift Burrell's Wharf out of the usual is the scale of its existing core building. At the heart of the site is the old Plate House, where the metal sections for Brunel's Great Eastern were forged between 1855 and 1858 when what was then the largest ship in the world was launched from the site.

The vast hall in which Brunel drove metal workers to distraction with his constantly revised specifications for the metal skin of the ship now looks like some avant garde stage-set for an industrial opera. Half a dozen Rhine maidens forcefully sing out of tune and a few operatic gods with a passion for smelting wouldn't be out of place in this tumble of girders, abandoned dye vats, and all the rest of the debris of an imploded factory.

Among this mess, Preston cheerfully points out where the swimming pool will be, where the saunas will be, the site for the wine bar and community space as well as the specialist craft studios that will line mezzanine floors hung on the still-solid structural frame of the building.

Another 18 flats will be put on new space at the top of this building when it has been cleaned up and refitted, and these will look out over the river site and over shop and small office space planned for other parts of the largest complex of listed buildings on the Isle of Dogs.

Parking, at around £7,500 a space, and 125 year leases with what Preston and Selby claim will be modest annual service charges, should draw in the 10 per cent exchangers for the first phase sales on November 7 when the site sales office (01-538 5421) opens.

At Burrell's Wharf, Brunel's achievement in creating the Great Eastern is, of course, slightly compromised by the fact that the project was a commercial fiasco, virtually broke the great engineer in its execution and that the ship stuck fast on its slipway on its launch day.

Preston and Selby will be expecting a less traumatic launch day on November 7.

John Brennan

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## DIVERSIONS

James Bredin puts the case for a national television archive

## Saving our TV heritage

A TELEVISION archive can mean anything from "all our old black-and-white film" to a collection of programmes which someone thinks are particularly worth keeping.

If we are thinking seriously about a television archive we should mean a collection of as many as possible of the programmes we have produced and will produce, documented, catalogued and indexed so that they may be preserved and made available to social historians, students of communications, historians of television, researchers, would-be practitioners in television production and the general public. It is different from and additional to a library of television programmes.

Hitherto, television archives have been collections of selected programmes. Selection has been necessary for reasons of cost. You might have wanted to keep everything that was transmitted because you couldn't be certain how much of it would interest, say, social historians in a 100 years' time—and you might well think it right that they rather than you should decide what will interest them—but the cost of recording, storing, preserving and making available all the output of Independent Television and the BBC has been prohibitive.

The cost is no longer prohibitive. The technology has now made it possible for us to preserve the originals, and provide access to copies, of everything we have kept of past programmes and everything we transmit from now onwards. It will take time and money, but it will be possible to do it. We may still choose to be selective in some degree, and for good reasons, but selection is no longer imperative. This technical advance comes at a time when other encouraging archival developments have been taking place in Independent Television, in the BBC, and at

the British Film Institute's National Film Archive.

Independent Television collectively has never had a proper archive of its programmes or even a clearly recognisable archival policy. Each of the 15 ITV companies (with TV-am, now 16) has built up its own film and videotape libraries. These contain much valuable archive material, but little serious effort has been made to con-

**'In archives as in much else the BBC has a great deal to be arrogant about. It could, with advantage, be rather less selfish about its archive material'**

sider how much of the total output of programmes since the start of ITV in 1955 should be preserved as an ITV archive and made available as an important national resource.

This lack of foresight, if not entirely excusable, is understandable. Archives assume permanence or, at least, a time-scale stretching uninterrupted far into the future. ITV companies exist only as long as their contracts are renewed. A three- or five-year contract, with or without extensions, carries no guarantee of renewal at the end of it. Anyone may apply for a franchise when the Independent Broadcasting Authority offers contracts and several previously well-known companies no longer exist. ATV, Associated Rediffusion, ABC, Southern Television, TWW, Westward, at intervals in the history of ITV, failed to have their contracts renewed

and were replaced by new companies.

In these circumstances companies are likely to concentrate on the day-to-day making and transmitting of programmes and are unlikely to worry about preserving those programmes for the benefit of historians, researchers or the public in a future of which they may not be part. (It is significant that the ITV company which is most archive conscious, Granada Television, is the only company which has been in existence continuously since the start of ITV in 1955.)

If ITV has not set up its own archive it has been doing the next best thing. Since 1969 it has given a total of more than £1m to the British Film Institute to pay for the acquisition of programmes that the BFI wanted to include in its National Film Archive (soon to become the National Film and Television Archive). This year, 1987, ITV has increased to £160,000 its annual payment to the BFI for this purpose.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has included a clause on archives in its contracts with the companies. It renewed or appointed in 1981. The clause makes two important provisions:

● The authority may require the company to make suitable arrangements for the accumulation and preservation of an archive of its programmes and related documents and for access to such an archive by the public.

● If the company's contract is terminated, reasonably satisfactory arrangements must be made for the preservation or acquisition of the company's archive and of any of its programmes suitable for archiving. This is an admirable assumption of public responsibility by the IBA. It has made it a condition of the companies' contracts that they preserve their programmes and give public

access to them. The companies have begun to make archiving arrangements and, in the meantime, continue to support the National Film (and Television) Archive financially and to make their programmes available to it.

Until recently the BBC made no claim to have an archive of its programmes. It took the view that its Charter restricted its use of licence fee money to the making of programmes. A national television archive was for others to organise and finance. The BBC's Film and Videotape Libraries are the largest of their type in the world—500,000 cans of film, 100,000 videotapes and cassettes—but the BBC has firmly and jealously denied outside access to the very significant proportion of the collection which is of archival interest.

At the same time the BBC likes to regard itself as an international leader in archival practice, has long had an archival policy which is more responsible, enlightened and all-embracing than that of most if not all broadcasting organisations.

It takes the BBC to live with such brazen contradictions but it looks now as if it is about to make at least some of its programmes accessible to outsiders and not continue to reserve its library for its own exclusive use. Its Charter has been amended (at the BBC's suggestion) so that one of the objects of the BBC now is "to maintain libraries and archives... and to make available to the public such libraries and archives with or without charge." The BBC is preparing an agreement with the BFI which will in future let most BBC programmes be copied for viewing (not, however, recorded for preservation). The BBC may even bear the cost of such copying.

The BBC's Film and Videotape Library is extremely well



Peter Morley interviews Paula Wolf, Hitler's sister, in a one-hour documentary transmitted in 1959. All the film has vanished. Only this photograph remains.

run and it contains an immensely valuable and carefully preserved collection of archive material. Its archival policy is clear and comprehensive and that policy is applied with professional skill and a high sense of responsibility. In fact, in archives as in much else, the BBC has a great deal to be arrogant about. It could, with advantage, however, be rather less selfish about its archive material which, it is arguable, is part of the national heritage—and paid for by public money through the licence fee which everyone with a television set has to pay.

The British Film Institute has, since 1935, been maintaining the National Film Archive as "a national repository of films of permanent value." The Archive began to acquire some television programmes as early as 1964 when ITV and Channel 4 authorised the Archive to record their programmes direct. Starting on January 1 1985, the number of television programmes acquired annually for preservation by the Archive was trebled and simultaneous recording on VHS cassettes made these programmes available for viewing by researchers and others.

The National Film and Television Archive was now able to change its policy from the selection of television programmes to the recording of all national television in the United Kingdom. It has set out to become the repository and study access point for all the UK's transmitted TV. From the beginning of 1985 it started recording 60 hours a week of ITV and Channel 4 programmes. It hopes that it will not be long before the BBC agrees to match the co-operation of the independent companies.

We owe it to posterity not to neglect, ignore or squander the television output which posterity will expect us to have preserved for its benefit. Our descendants will want to use television and film as research resources in the same way as printed material has been used for centuries. There is a need now for television and film material to be used in the teaching, for example, of contemporary history. Lecturers and teachers should, with ease, be able to call up and use audio-visual material to illustrate points they are making.

We need a co-ordinated effort to achieve a national television archive that will satisfy these demands. We do not need another inquiry or another advisory committee to survey the field. What I suggest we do need is a working party whose brief would be to formulate and propose a plan of action.

It would look at the present library and archive arrangements of the BBC and ITV and relate them to what the BFI has been doing to build television into the National Film Archive. It would assume that the BBC and ITV will want to continue to operate their film and videotape libraries for their own entirely proper and legitimate purposes. It would propose to them that the contents of their libraries should also be made available to form the basis of a national archive. It should, I suggest, assume that the British Film Institute is likely to be the best foundation on which to build a properly comprehensive national archive because:

The working party should, I suggest, be made up of representatives of the IBA, BBC Television, ITV companies, Channel 4 and the BFI. In addition, there should be a private librarian who is also a historian and a film-maker, a historian who wants to use television and film material in the teaching of the history of the 20th century, and a representative of government (Home Office or Office of Arts and Libraries).

This is an edited version of a discussion paper by James Bredin of Wolfson College, Cambridge. It was published by British Petroleum and is available free from Public Affairs Dept., BP, Britannic House, Moor Lane, London, EC2Y 9BU.

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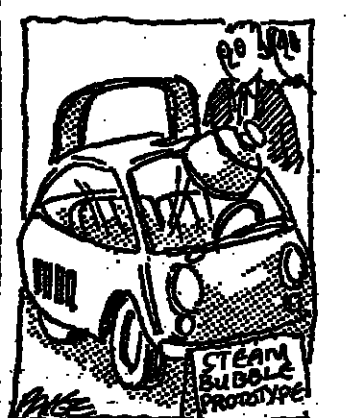
Jonathan Sale on some novel methods of setting wheels into motion...

JAMES WATT is not exactly the patron saint of the Earl's Court Motorfair. He was able to drag the steam engine kicking and screaming into the 18th century, but he managed to knock on the head the basic concept of the motor car. When William Murdoch, one of Watt's employees, drew the firm's attention to his invention of "a small engine applied to a carriage," Watt declared that this type of vehicle would never catch on, thus effectively putting back the development of the motor car in Britain by a good century.

Today, we all know where James Watt went wrong: the future was indeed four-wheeled. What the Motorfair's dealers may not appreciate is that petrol, a later comer to the motoring scene, and does not have a monopoly, even now.

The most intriguing fuel of 1830, or any year, was proposed by a William Mann of Brighton, Sussex. It was not a tiger which he wanted to put into tanks but compressed air. He declared that the force of air, compressed to 1,000 atmospheres, would drive one of his carriages at 10 mph for up to 20 miles, whereupon it would be re-fuelled in a 30-second pit-stop.

The actual compression would be done by prisoners turning treadmills connected to pumps, and canisters of the non-polluting fuel would be available at short intervals on the London Underground and other selected routes.



Friends of the Earth-Motors turned out to be much hotter air. Other inventors, though, managed to use the atmosphere for propulsion. The Chinese long before had harnessed the wind by means of sails fitted to wheeled devices, which gave them easily the strongest building-sites in the known world, but were left behind by a magnificent Dutch-built jumbo version known as Stevin's Wind Carriage.

Simon Stevin, Quartermaster-General of Holland, designed a forerunner of the land yacht which carried 28 people a distance of 14 miles in a mere two hours.

Two centuries later, a Bristol man, George Pocock, broke that record by an astonishing 100 per cent. He designed a system of kites strong enough to pull the barge of HMS Victory, with a full crew, from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight. Then, moving inland, he used stunt kites to shift his "Char-Volant" containing six passengers from Bristol to an astoundingly 100 miles at an average of 10 mph.

By setting his kites at an angle to the wind, he was able to make them tack against it and return, from Marlborough to Bristol, without having to wait for the wind to change.

Wind power is now as remote from mainstream motoring as is gunpowder, which one might say developed as a means of propulsion for the suicidal driver who did not mind playing Russian roulette every time he turned on the ignition. Electricity, though, lasted the course better.

In 1902, a Baker (electric) car did a mile in 47 seconds. Unfortunately, its next mile involved it being pushed back again—a driver could have speed or distance, but not both. Today, battery-powered cars are still speeding ahead.

Steam cars have a longer pedigree. Leon Serpollet who conceived the "flash boiler" for instantly getting up steam, held the first driving licence in Paris. But the father of the automobile was Father Ferdinand Verbiest, posted to Peking on a goodwill mission, in 1665 was cranking his steam carriage for the entertainment of the Emperor K'ang-Hsi.

Yes, this fuel is still steaming ahead. The record for a steam-powered car—which a tried and failed to beat recently—stands at a respectable 128 mph. Its development might suffer from the fact that the basic ingredient, water, is free and therefore offers little incentive to owners of tankers and proprietors of filling stations. But I expect someone is working on that.

Stuart Marshall at the Motorfair: Page X

## Gypsies who came to stay

Barbara Dabzell finds that tolerance can be stretched too far by unwelcome visitors

"MY MOTHER said that I never should play with the gypsies in the wood..."

She was less specific about what to do when gypsies move into the bottom of your garden. I used to live in a flat in inner London, with a garden which backed onto a children's playground. This became an inner London flat with a garden backing onto an illegally-occupied travellers' campsite.

Living next to the travelling folk was no fun. It did nothing for aspirations to gracious living: it put me into a bad temper for five weeks; it failed to make me appreciate the culture of that particular ethnic minority.

My nights were spent listening to the throb of their generators. My first duty every morning was to clear their debris thrown over my garden wall: plastic basins, car parts, bits of wood, assorted junk. Most weekends offered me the spectacle of a ship fire, a blazing car or a domestic brawl. My broken windows were less of a problem than my personality change: on the subject of travellers my normally liberal-minded attitudes were replaced by sentiments which would have done credit to a Ku Klux Klanner.

My faith in Camden Borough Council's policies has taken a knock since I discovered how long it takes to move travellers off an illegally occupied site. To be fair, this is not entirely the council's fault. Before 1983, Camden took travellers to court to have them evicted, but this policy did not solve the problem: rather it created difficulties over children who were

unable to settle in school, and families unable to register with doctors.

Now Camden operates a policy which, it believes, is more humane. If travellers set up camp on land needed by the council for another purpose, it takes steps to evict. If the land is not needed for another purpose, the council tries to reconcile neighbouring residents to the unwanted guests. In the long term Camden hopes to provide permanent sites for travellers. Meanwhile it allows unlawful occupation of what are known as "temporary tolerated sites." (Residents tend to regard the word "tolerated" with some derision.)

In the case of these unofficial—neighbours, the council decided to evict. There was delay: the courts were unable to hear the case for several weeks. But a possession order was duly granted and the travellers moved on.

This does little to solve the problem of residents' dislike of travellers in a neighbourhood. Camden operates various nuisance criteria: travellers are asked not to damage property, not to cause health risks, not to fly tip nor cause undue noise. Anyone who has seen travellers' campsites will readily guess that such a policy is not much of a success. The council's good intentions cannot disguise the fact that a residential lifestyle does not mix well with the travelling one.

Local councils may get better at reducing friction between the residents they represent and travellers whom they seek to treat in a sensible and civilised way. One day we may regard apparently conflicting lifestyles as fascinating cross-cultural exchange. It may help when permanent sites are available. But please, dear council, not at the bottom of my garden.



## DIVERSIONS

# The London Library is rich in more than books

**B**ARBARA CARTLAND gave it some books last year, and so did Christopher Logue. Sir Isaiah Berlin gave some money, and so did Morgan Grenfell. Frank Muir, John Julius Norwich, Pearson's, the BBC and nearly 150 other individuals and companies, not counting bequests and legacies ranging between £100 and £27,500, and a gift "sent at the request of Rupert Murdoch for re-binding, repair and replacement of bound volumes of The Times".

In thankful acceptance of this kind of steady support, in addition to annual subscription fees totalling £428,714 at its most recent audit—stands the London Library. Over a million books and a devoted staff in St James's Square serve 6,700 members.

Affection for and loyalty to this extraordinary institution is measurable on the scale normally reserved, in the UK, for the Royal family. It is the most distinguished private library in the world; probably the largest; certainly the best loved. Founded in 1841 by Thomas Carlyle, the historian, in cankerous fury at the dreadful research facilities offered by the publicly owned library at the British Museum (these included a private room for his rival, Lord Macaulay, while Carlyle himself was obliged to work in a Reading Room crowded with "novel-readers and dictionary makers—a thick-skinned race compared with real scholars"), almost every 19th and 20th century English literature figure you have ever heard of—Tennyson, Thackeray, Dickens, E. G. Wells, Virginia Woolf, Harold Pinter, Iris Murdoch—has been (or still is) a member. Its open-minded, open-hearted attitude to books and readers makes enduring sense of T. S. Eliot's observation: "This is the private library of each one of its members."

Services on offer at the BM Reading Room—for those accorded the privilege of entering it at all—are dreadful still. "Private" as the London Library is, it is private only in the sense that it is wholly independent of any kind of public funding. It is not in the least exclusive. Douglas Matthews, the present librarian, is at pains to say so. "There are no restrictions on membership," he says. "Only library rules, of course. Anybody can apply, pay the subscription (£75 for annual membership, £125 for life), and take up to 10 books home immediately; 15 if you live more than 20 miles from the library. Well, yes, we are rather cautious about modern equipment—perhaps a little old-fashioned in our ways. It may feel like a club—but it's not. We're a modern modern library, and we're very open." Which is to say, you, me and Aunt Mabel may push through a pair of easily swinging doors, enter the comfortably downy, well-cared-for building in the north-west corner of James's Square between Grindley's Bank at No 13, and the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society at No 15; pay the subscription and borrow books to take away. It is the generous lending policy which makes the London Library a non-profit. For an extra fee you may increase the borrowing allowance (up to 40 books at a go) and keep them for extended

periods so long as they are not requested by another reader. "It is not typically English," said E. M. Foster. "It is typically civilised." Members are supposed to renew titles every two months, but it is a rare reader who remembers, and the library staff do not fuss. ("Dear Sir" wrote one understandably conscientious borrower, "Please re-enter Dante's Inferno.")

It is a sad triumph of experience over hope that, with the best will in the world, the longest a member keeps a book the more difficult it is for the library to get it back. There is a black-list of members who, failing to respond to a series of polite requests for returns, have had borrowing rights withdrawn. London Library Rules are rules proper applied: strict in theory, in practice flexible to a hair's breadth of judgement. "We would rather cut our losses than go to law, but..."

Members "can turn quite tricky" on receiving a bill for a volume lost. London Library volumes have been blown up in both world wars, chewed by dogs, soaked to pulp by rain or harbour water (a mail-bag containing expensive new titles sent to a member living in the Western Isles fell between the ferry and the quay-side). Novels borrowed by Kitchener went down with the cruiser sunk by a German mine in 1916.

Carlyle himself seems to have set the library's lowest standard of behaviour over books not returned. He denied all knowledge of some loans, demanded that the library staff stop pestering him, and actually wrote, in one enraged outburst: "I will not return this book—a piece of possessiveness to outshine even the record-holder for the library's longest loan, a Devon lady who liked a book so much that she kept it for 14 years. (It was A Guide To The Best Fiction, English And American.)" I had to get very firm indeed," Douglas Matthews remembers, thoughtfully.

There is some pilfering, but it seems neither a particularly serious nor an increasing problem. ("I don't know—new titles seem to disappear very quickly," one member said crossly.) Professional thieves, selling stolen books to antiquarian dealers, were a worry during one period. "We shouldn't have to lock books away—we pride ourselves on the open-access policy—but now some titles have too precious to risk," Douglas Matthews says. "Mind you, we always prosecute; we get convictions." More of a headache is the problem of books taken for the purpose of re-printing them.

Members are now required to leave their belongings at the door. The higgledy-piggledy pile of briefcases, baggy tweed overcoats and, indeed, dirty mackintoshes probably says more for the self-conscious shabbiness of serious readers, writers and researchers than it does for the criminal tendencies, if any, of the London-based literary clique which forms a high proportion of the library's regulars.

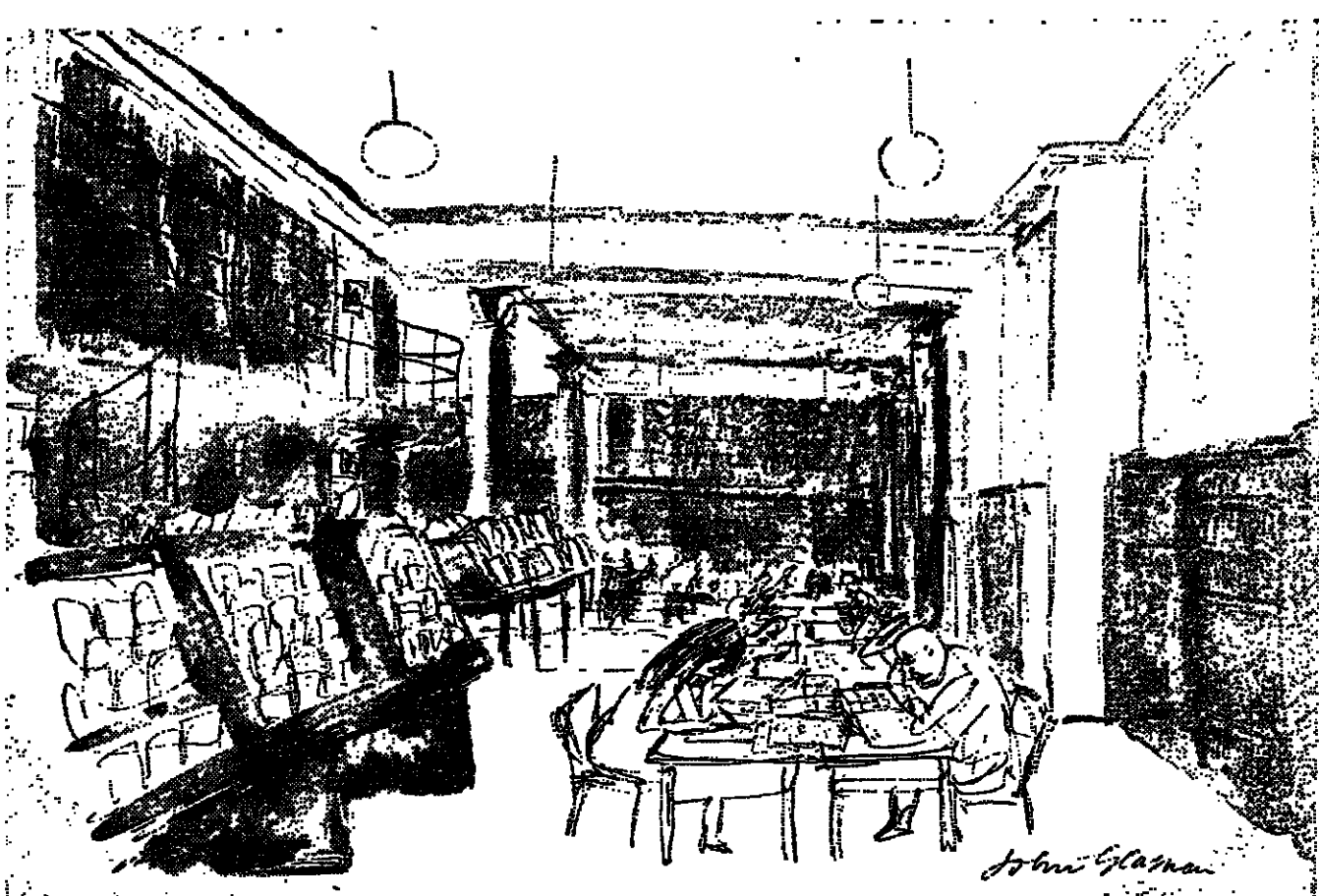
"It's very simple," a member in good standing explained gently. "The place is run by a group of friends for their own benefit. There is, of course, a limited number of people who can benefit, but anybody can, if they want. The £75 subscription is tax-deductible if you are a professional writer. Scholars and students, if they can't afford the full subscription, are encouraged to apply to the London Library Trust." Last year grants to such beneficiaries came to £4,324.

From the point of view of bookish folk in St James's Square there can be no smugness, only sad irony in contemplation of a public library service which has endured book spending cuts of 34.2 per cent since 1976-79 in England and Wales (in real terms), never mind cuts in grants to universities—accompanied by academic howls—imposed performance on libraries. Worst of all is the spectacle of the British Library project wallowing like a half-beached whale in waves of government indecision, appalling administrative muddle, and costs mounted at £20m-£40m two years ago for a design to house 25m books. The betting is that it will be £10m by the end. But at least delay has enabled new information technology to take root in the nine-and-a-half acre site beside St Pancras station.

How different, how very different from the London Library. But the London Library is run by its readers. The present Committee is chaired by John Grigg, the biographer, Gabriele Annan, Anita Brookner, Barbara Gaseigne, John Julius Norwich, David Pryce-Jones and John Smith (of the Landmark Trust) have recently joined this self-perpetuating oligarchy of 24. Serving members of the magic circle retire in batches, in rotation—becoming eligible, after a polite pause of a year or so, for re-appointment. The AGM of the whole membership of the library is notionally sovereign.

An investment sub-committee oversees the professional management of funds which, with a market valuation of over £5m must forestall financial fears in so far as they can be anticipated—which is never very far. There is nothing lavish about the way the London Library runs its affairs. It would like more members, more means of support; of course it would. That constant clicking noise you hear in the bookshelves is a cost-conscious membership switching off lights. But between 6,000 and 7,000 new books can be bought every year, without undue penny-pinching.

To be sure, the London Library has had its lean times. In 1969, after much agonising, the Committee agreed to raise the annual subscription from a decorous 14 guineas to £20. By 1972 the library's capital reserves had fallen to £250,000: an appeal was launched. Its



target—after much agonising—was set at £500,000. £600,000 came in. "We were a little bit lucky in other ways, too," Douglas Matthews says gratefully. There have been one or two "substantial" bequests. Flotillas of smaller ones swirled in every year.

More significantly, in strategic planning for the library's future, are some decisions—one past, some pending—about its premises. The freehold building was acquired in the mid-19th century for £21,000 and resold during the librarianship of Sir Charles Hagberg Wright, who held the post from 1893 to his death in 1940. It stands on a site of about 9,000 square feet, fronting a square whose listed properties and blue-chip status must make it one of the most prestigious and expensive in central London.

The library owns a couple of other important local assets. In 1913, with an eye on future expansion, it bought Dalmeny Court, 8 Duke Street, St James's, a block of 24 flats backing on to the library itself. Leases on the flats they produced the library income struck fast—£600 a year for 50 years—expired in 1963. Taking a realistic view, the library then sold the flats short-term on seven-year leases. But in 1978, unaccountably, even incredibly, it seemed to throw realism to the winds: a 99-year lease on Dalmeny Court was sold to a property company for £331,000. The ground rent is a mere £5,000 a year.

The library also owns the freehold of a smaller building in Duke Street St James's. It houses the Café Bonbonnière, a cheap and cheerful haunt favoured by pin-striped chaps from Christie's King Street saleroom. London Library browsers, with not so much as a coffee machine on the premises to fortify nerves shot to pieces

in the vertiginous bookshelves (you can see several levels at a glance through prison style perforated iron walkways) can smell the café's lunchtime special through the west wall of the library basement.

The lease on the café building has seven years to run. Might the library buy it out earlier? Demand for more shelf space, now critical, must force some solution soon—within the next 12 months. A number of options for the London Library are coming into sharp focus.

It might shed stock, to make room for new titles. But it is a research library. There is very little scope for chucking out books—and Murphy's Law decrees that the minute you chuck, you need it.

Consideration was given, earlier this year, to partial development within the present building. There is a space over the Science and Miscellaneous section which, if filled in, would provide space for about 90,000 more volumes. This would probably cost about £500,000. It would postpone the space problem rather than solve it. In 10-15 years there would be another emergency.

It might move—lock, stock and leather armchairs—from its present site. The suggestion would provoke uproar. "Members feel strongly attached to this building," Douglas Matthews says anxiously. One scholarly gentleman raised a wry eyebrow: "You'd be surprised how many people come here just to use the lavatory," he said. Moving certainly seems the least likely expedient, though it is worth noting that the London Library is, literally, sitting on a fortune.

Last December Guinness sold the London headquarters of Distillers—two adjoining townhouses in St James's

Square—for £30.5m. The implications of this kind of money paid for property in this kind of location do not seem adequately appreciated at Number 14. But to ignore, for the sake of auld lang syne, the option of moving the books out of a piece of real estate whose value might be the equivalent of, say, the £25m estimate for the cost of the National Gallery extension would surely raise the question of the direction of the library.

The development option has recently gone quiet, probably because nobody has any clear idea what to do. In the meantime there is talk of outhousing some of the collection, establishing a reserve depository nearby for some of the books. Given the rents per square foot near St James's Square, this would seem an expensive option—though the basement of the Travellers' Club seemed a possibility, now abandoned. (There was a nice precedent here: the London Library started life in two rooms rented from the Travellers.)

Typically civilised, the London Library is typical in every other way but one: it has the growth-and-management problem typical of our times. Finding a solution is a delicate matter: the library is a unique institution run by members to please members; they will not be pleased at the prospect of any change.

On the principle that a problem should be seen as an opportunity, there may be an appropriately civilised, if somewhat old-fashioned answer. Arising out of the notion to farm out some sections of books, the London Library might establish some branch libraries around the capital. Fiction to Fulham, say. Sociology to Streatham. Theology to Tufnell Park... it is certainly high time somebody did something about Theology. Hardly anybody borrows the books.

## Sally Watts inspects industrial history on display at Quarry Bank Museum

VISITORS entering Quarry Bank Mill today can "clock in" like the cotton workers more than a century ago. But then it was the start of 13 hours day for apprentices, while adults worked from 5.30 in the morning until 8 at night—provided they were not required for overtime.

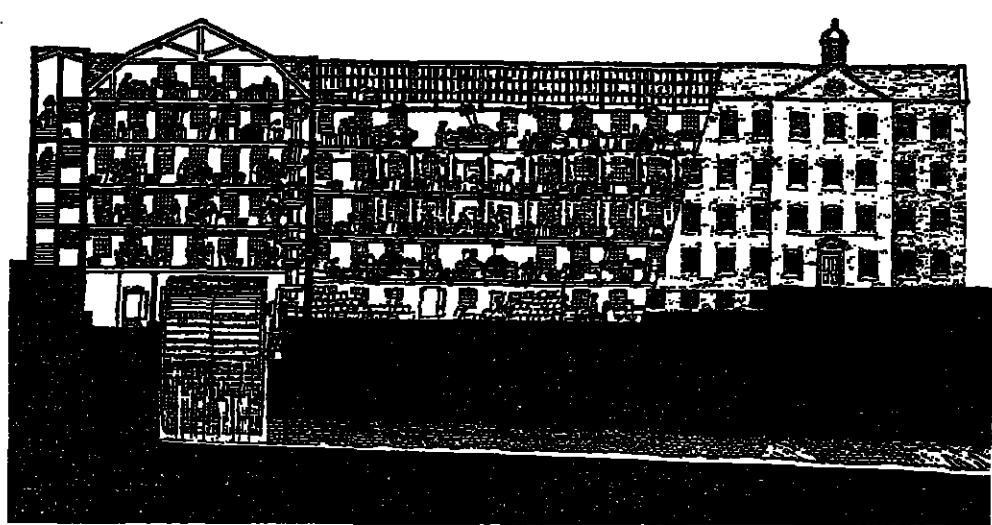
This is probably the best preserved factory of the Industrial Revolution, a working museum producing cotton from the authentic machines to sell in its own shop by the yard or made into goods. As one of the growing band of industrial museums, it shows the history of the cotton trade from a cottage industry overtaken by mass industrialisation, tracing its astonishing rise from the late 18th century through the heyday of the 1800s to its 20th century decline and rebirth.

It has also a sociological aspect, showing the life of the millworkers and their families at home, at work and in the new Cheshire village of Styal, built to serve the mill. In 1784, the year when Liverpool imported the first bales of raw cotton from America, Samuel Greg, a young textile merchant, arrived in Manchester in search of a suitable mill site.

Though still the remote farming hamlet it had been since medieval times, Styal was a natural choice for Greg's purpose, with easy access to Manchester 12 miles to the north, and an adequate water supply just below the meeting of two rivers.

Realising the need for technical expertise, Greg went into partnership in 1798 with Peter Ewart, an engineer who was able to harness more effectively the power of the River Bollin beside which the mill was built. Meanwhile early machines, devised by some of the mechanical geniuses of the day, gave impetus to the new industry. Hargreaves's spinning jenny, Arkwright's water frame and Crompton's mule.

These three, the museum announces with a flourish: "changed the industry, the people, the landscape and the world." Taking Quarry Bank Mill as a typical, prospering microcosm that was soon producing 1,000 lbs of cotton a week, it shows how this change came about: for example, the growth of the northern canals, of railways, mills and mill towns.



Working world: Quarry Bank in its heyday

## Dark satanic past

In Manchester (nicknamed Cottonopolis) hundreds of thousands gathered twice a week on the floor of the Royal Exchange; like Liverpool, it experienced a population explosion between 1800 and 1850, during which the number of cotton workers quadrupled.

Although the American civil war depressed the industry, bringing severe hardship and the need for famine relief, this was followed by a postwar boom. The second depression came between the two world wars, during which hundreds of mills closed down, and although Quarry Bank produced cotton commercially for another 20 years, in 1939 Greg's great-grandson gave mill and village to the National Trust, which still owns them and has carried out extensive maintenance.

Working demonstrations illustrate the stages from flax to woven cloth—spinning was introduced at Quarry Bank in 1837—and there are plans to include finishing, bleaching, dyeing and printing.

The birth of the factory system brought a new stage in Britain's social history, and Styal may be seen as a forerunner of other worker colonies—Port Sunlight and Bourneville, for instance—stemming in part from the paternalism of the new bosses. In 1820 Greg started building Styal village: cottages, allotments, school,



Treasure Trove

chapel and profit-sharing shop which, as well as food, sold clothing, millinery and household goods.

We are shown a typical cottage room of the 1840s, with lighted stove, saucepan on the hob and wooden cradle on the floor. For the young paper-orphans he took on from neighbouring parishes, he built a house where they lived in the care of a superintendant and his wife, attending school one night a week.

The Apprentices' House is now being reconstructed, including replanting of the orchard and vegetable garden, to show it as it was 150 years ago. Nigel Nixon, keeper of collections, enthusiastically foresees school children spending a day in the role of mill apprentices. The new breed of cotton

traders soon became fired with expansive, far-sighted views: in 1857 many were demanding "with missionary zeal" the development of inventive genius, of art and science, agriculture and education, the creation of large towns and the abolition of slavery.

In that same year, one of Greg's sons, Samuel junior, wrote shrewdly of education: "You may possess all other things and yet without this one, you may be wanting everything."

However, his recipe for recruiting and keeping good workers may now appear somewhat simplistic: "Fair wages, comfortable houses, gardens for their children, sunny little accommodations and conveniences in the mill, and interest in their general welfare."

The mill, which has retained its original rural setting, is being imaginatively developed by the independent, charitable Quarry Bank Mill Trust. In 1984 it was named Museum of the Year and this year it won a Sandford award for Heritage Education.

Quarry Bank Museum, Styal, Cheshire SK9 4LA. Quarry Bank Museum, Tel: Wilmslow (0625) 327468. Opening times from October to March: 11 to 4, Tuesdays to Sundays. Take exit 5 from M56, 15-20 miles walk from Styal station.

## Julia Orney discovers a distant relative on the seashore

# My forefather, the squirt

FOR MY 10th Christmas, I received the Collins Pocket Guide to the Sea Shore. I had an evening glass of sherry which I spilled over colour plate 17. The gastropod molluscs still bear the stain.

The magical properties of marine life never ceased to baffle me. Here were creatures that changed sex with age—limpets—and things that could be chopped into five bits by irate oyster fishermen, only to throw realism to the winds: a 99-year lease on Dalmeny Court was sold to a property company for £331,000. The ground rent is a mere £5,000 a year.

Twenty-five years later, curiosity unabated, I joined like-minded people at Pembroke's south-western tip. Nine in number and ruled by the sea, we carried glass vessels full of mud and walked with eyes downcast. We were not some mysterious Welsh sect but eight members of an adult education class plus tutor, marine biologists there for a long weekend in Little England beyond Wales. Only a spring tide ebbe far enough to expose the treats of the lower shore; hence the chosen date for the trip, to coincide with full moon.

The sheltered rocky shore was the first study area. Sheltered it certainly was: looking towards the oil refinery skyline, you could have sworn you were beside a huge lake, the sea entrances being completely hidden. In the shadow of the super-tankers, like Gulliver in Brobdingnag, we marvelled at the super-seaweeds and posed for each other's cameras, holding aloft pennants of help 14 ft long.

Lack of tidal scouring had allowed dead weed to accumulate as a rotting soup through which I waded gingerly barefoot, lest some toe-snapping fiddler crab was abroad. The beach echoed with triumphant cries as adults undergoing education located eels and sea scorpions and lampbrushes. Looking as cosy as it is for possible for marine slugs to



look, two sea lemons sat side by side on a stock pile of mud. With steady feet—the rocks were murderously sharp—we quietly polluting a pool full of snakelocks, anemones and dark-red cartilaginous weed that twinkled with royal blue iridescence.

Under overhangs, I met the usual crowd of sea squirts—ugly brown goblets that spouted this jets of water when prodded. But then our tutor introduced us to the lamp-bulb tunicate, a squirt of exquisite crystalline beauty—in short, the kind of squirt you would be proud to call forefather.

Then, there were the colonial tunicates named star ascidians, like daisies in aspic—surely art for art's sake? Squirts rose in my estimation, and in everybody else's also to judge by the prayerful posture of the enthusiastic naturalists flourishing hand lenses.

Our home for three days was a Victorian fort. The venue had deep significance for me: the fort became a field studies centre under the guidance of John Parrett, co-author of that well-thumbed Collins Pocket Guide.

My room in a forbidding-looking stone block gazed down steeply at sea-washed rocks and cliffs tumbling with campions and thrift. The split-second speed with which jackdaws found the left-over bread roll I put on the windowsill suggested that this was the traditional way for guilty schoolchildren and adults pursuing education to dis-

pose of their packed lunches. Next target was life beneath the sands. Excited shouts of "Worm!" greeted every forkful of mud that saw daylight. Getting hold of certain worms was not easy; they had an urge to self-destruct and broke themselves into segments, however gently you handled them. Still, into the jam jars went rag and cat worms—which had a disconcerting habit of blowing their throats inside-out—together with a dollop of ooze to keep them comfortable on their journey back to the lab for examination.

The revelations of an electron microscope were astonishing to people unfamiliar with such sophisticated equipment. We worked with that naive zeal which belongs wholly to the

amateur naturalist. In a dish, I discovered a blown-glass shrimp with spangled eyes where previously there seemed nothing but salt water.

Above the bench, a notice forbade the collection of local dog whelks—common enough shellfish before the advent of ships' anti-fouling paint, the toxic component of which chemically castrates the poor old snail.

The last day's theme was an exposed shore, a rocky west-facing bay into which the waves washed a jellyfish replica of a paperweight with a blue chrysanthemum inside—a stinger, warned our tutor. Courtesy of ships that dump their garbage into the ocean, someone found a handy plastic pot on the strandline—jetam to contain a vicious jelly. Thus held, the paperweight became an umbrella pulsating with gentian-violet glow, and all my childhood wonder came flooding in with the tide. Eight adults became a lot more educated that weekend.

Yet, there comes a moment when even the keenest marine biologists raise their eyes from beach level and straighten their backs, and suddenly every one of us was lost in the beauty of the little bay with its isles shimmering far off. The sea is never so green, the rocks never so red, as in those final minutes before you must turn for home—and I reflected that I was glad evolution chose me to be the one who peered at a squirt, rather than the other way round.

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## D I V E R S I O N S

**AFTER** haute cuisine, let me introduce you to *haut decor*. As the delicate arrangements of mangetouts and silvers of bloody *magrets de canard* get ever prettier to look at and less satisfying to eat so our houses become more and more richly decorated. There seems hardly a corner of a house or interior these days that isn't decorated within an inch of its life.

Where once a certain sort of glare from a certain sort of family who wasn't suited to the academic life took to cooking, these days the wife is dragging out the old slipper and helping you catch the curtains to the carpets. Now that grand style decorating is dead and gone, the wife is brought up in grand houses and thus unaccustomed to the mores of the genre are in dire straits. They are becoming anything like as decorated mad as our American cousins but a survey produced by the American Exhibition (the professional interior designers' exhibition running next week at Olympia) reveals that our domestic tastes are much more frequently than ever before, with the sitting-room, unsurprisingly, getting the most

People with truly grand houses and the income to match would be well advised to go for advice to the interior designers used to operating on this kind of scale—people like Colefax & Fowler, David Mlinaric, Nina Campbell, Tessa Kennedy, John Stefanidis and their ilk.

Large houses require a lot of experience, sure taste and a very firm hand to make the most of them, and mistakes can be very expensive.

The interior decorator has failed if the house looks as if it has been done over from head to foot by a professional. If the partnership has really worked it will look as if you have made every tasteful decision yourself. Decorators should get to know you, understand your needs, make appropriate selections and suggestions for you to choose from. They should be able to translate your taste into a workable, practical



environment and keep within the budget to boot.

It might not be quite as artless as the purveyors of these styles sometimes imply but nor is it as arcane a skill as some interior decorators would have

us believe. Confidence is all. A good eye and a certain sense of style are not the exclusive preserve of the professionals.

However, if you are looking for a halfway solution—somebody who will give you a little guidance, lead you perhaps to more adventurous solutions than you would have embarked upon without a little prompting, there are endless little set-ups designed to do just that.

● **Coleur Counsellors, 187 New King's Road, London, SW8.**  
(Tel 01-736 8326)

(Ref 10-138 8328)  
The new consignment was set up several weeks ago by Shirley Liger and Virginia Stoutman who wanted to offer sympathetic, easy help to those who didn't want or need a full decorating service. The consignment is a series of black boxes into which samples of a whole range of fabrics, carpets and wallpapers are packed. They are all collated into colour groups to make selection and matching as simple as possible. All the best names are there - from Designers' Guild to Pallu and Lake, Sanderson, Osborne and Little, Tintown etc. All the consumers are treated to a free sample of the material and can organise not just the fabrics and the carpets but the making-up and the laying as well.

There are now lots of Colour Counsellors all over the

**van der Post looks at the interior design firms offering guidance to haut decor**



**The Swedish barquentine Amorina in full sail**

country who will bring their useful little black boxes to your own house. There is no charge for the service — the counselors make their money, like all professionals, on the difference between wholesale and retail

● **Private Lives Interiors.** The Old Parsonage, Church Street, Crendall, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5QQ (Tel 0252-856527).

883827. Just an hour's drive down the M3 from London is a Private Lives Here, the bewildered would-be transformer of dingy hallways into oases of light and glamour can find the complete home-decorating service. You can park the car quietly (or, if you are careless, Private Lives will organise a chauffeur-driven car service) and browse through samples of fabrics, wallcoverings, carpets, curtains, cushions, accessories and furniture from a wide range of suppliers. The taste tends towards the upmarket with names like

**Ashley).** Choose from bright Provencal cottons, delicious floral classics by Manuel Canovas, special designs from Michael Szell, silks, cottons, damasks.

you can order all the panoply of decorative detailing that has become the hallmark of the 1980 interior — the elaborately draped bed, the richly upholstered furniture, the lush floral patterns, the ruffled, pleated, dressed curtains. In smooty interior design circles they profess to be tired of the stippled, the marbled or the rag-rolled wall but if you have not yet had a chance to indulge in these various whimsies Private Eye will sort it up for you. It can also arrange bespoke joinery — want a hi-fi cabinet, some carved bookshelves, a little bit of woodwork? All can be arranged.

Wood House Design, Thorpe Lodge, 100, Riverside Road, North Yorkshire HG4 3LU (Tel 0975 2888).

ing to Tom and Juliet Jowitt. Juliet has used one wing as the basis of a design advice service. A sitting-room, dining-room, two bedrooms are furnished in traditional country house style with a variety of curtain treatments, upholstery and the rest, all of which are just to give an idea of what can be done.

There is also a vast collection of samples of every kind — carpets, fabrics, furniture, — some of it their own design — all of which can be supplied. There is always a small collection of antiques and besides organising the curtain-making, sofa-covering, carpet-laying, etc., the staff, headed by the experienced Juliet Jowett or one of her experienced assistants will help devise schemes. The house is open five days a week from 10 am to 4 pm.

● Norland Interiors, 124 and 122 Holland Park Avenue, London W.11. Tel 01-5221

Another interior design service started by somebody who found that she learned so much doing up her own house that she might as well pass it on—for a fee! Sue Arnold used to be a barrister but has given it all up to start her own business. Here under one roof is everything the home renovator needs—the carpets, the curtains, the taps, the pipes, the plaster, mouldings and the

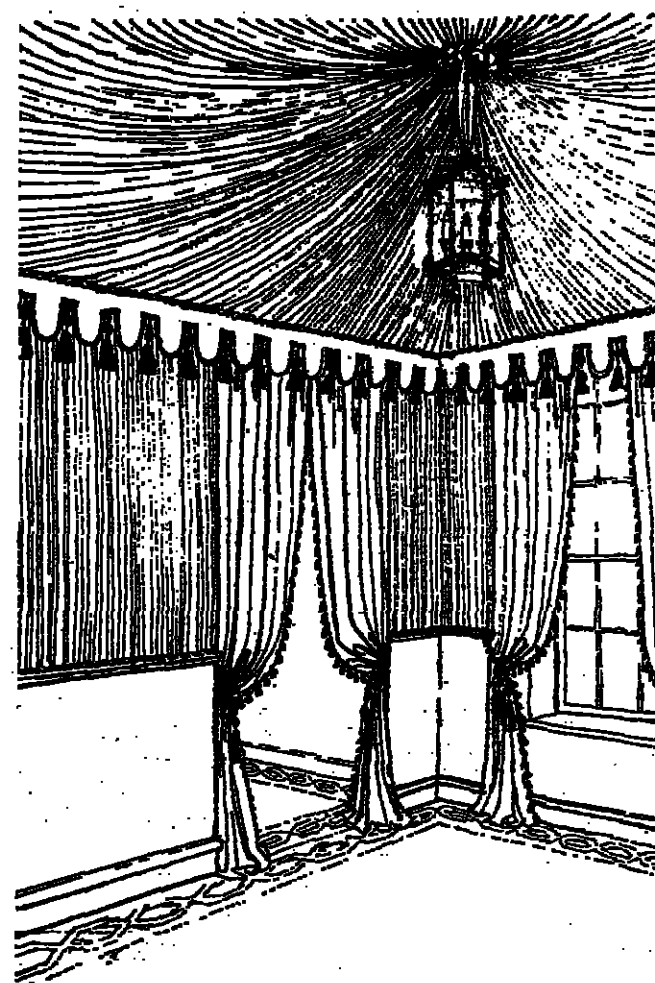
It isn't a service on the cheap—it's aimed at the heavy-earning, hard-working busy professional who wants the best but doesn't have time to find it. She will organise anything from just "pelmets and frills" to the building work and the plumbing. There are complete room-sets where clients can gather something of her taste (it veers towards country house traditional with a touch of London sophistication thrown in).

Val and Geoffrey Gridland, who used to run *Eximious* (well-known to generations of *How To Spend It* readers), are joining to help run a retail shop which will sell all the finishing touches.

**The Charles Hammond Shop,  
253 Fulham Road, London SW3**

(Tel 01-376 5599).

Charles Hammond has been a famous interior design company around London for many a long year. Chief purveyor of country-house style to London Sloanes, it has recently made



huge efforts to update its whole operation

This week saw the opening of the first exclusively retail shop. Besides selling many of the charming bits and pieces that make a home (pictures, rugs, lamps, furniture), there will be a vast range of fabrics, from Charles Hammond's own

chintz collection to really quite budget-priced lines, to inspire the jaded eye.

The staff in the shop will be trained to give quite expert advice on most aspects of interior design, on the suitability of fabrics for their purpose and so on but if more expert interior design help is needed it can also be got at Charles Hammond, 2a Battersea Park Road, London SW8. For a £50 consultancy fee in London, and £75 outside, an interior designer will come to your house and give you

general advice. If you decide to go ahead with precise plans, these of course can all be carried out by the Charles Hammond teams.

If you already have an interior designer in hand then you have access to the London Interior Designers Centre, 1, Cringle St, London SW8 5BX. Here you will find a de-luxe showroom, featuring room sets, furniture, old and new, tables

furniture old and new (styles as diverse as an Arthur Breese reproduction walnut bureau cabinet and a transparent perspex Butler's tray by Quadrant Four) and some 3,000 different fabrics. There is a cafe, a private meeting room, corners to work in—in other words the kind of comfortable and up-market centre that New Yorkers take for granted and that we have had to do without until now.

**One of the furnished rooms at Thorpe Lodge**



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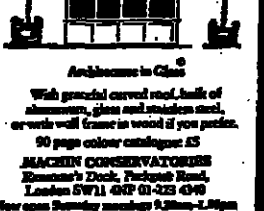
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## DIVERSIONS

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WHEN YOU take a look at all these girls in pearls who seem to be making quite a good living out of telling you how to swag your chintz and add bows to your picture frames, you might decide you'd like to join them rather than pay their fees.

There are now any number of exceedingly good courses aimed at the new interior decorating boom. You too can learn to drag, stipple, marble and stencil as well as the rest of them, how to upholster and how to treat a window. Here are just a few of the many courses currently on offer.

The Inchbald School of Design, 7 Eaton Gate, London, SW1 (Tel 01-720 2287).

One of the best and oldest-established of them all — teaching the daughters of the gentry everything from landscaping to architectural drawing. There are short courses and long courses and you won't be gaining Jacqueline Inchbald's hard-acquired knowledge on the cheap, but plenty of the Inchbald graduates are now running flourishing businesses. Write for the comprehensive brochures as the number of courses is too long to list here.

KLC, 5 Blythe Mews, Blythe

Road, London W14 6HW. (Tel: 01-602 5522).

A new arrival on the teaching scene but an extremely good one by all accounts. It aims to turn out professionals so well-qualified that they can set up in business on their own. There is a purpose-built school, complete with lecture theatre and studio, and Jenny Gibbs, who runs it, has made a point of lining up experts in every field.

The 30-week diploma course costs £6,000 (do not worry, you will soon recoup that when you set up on your own) and starts with basics like construction, plumbing and electrical, lighting. You are taught technical drawing, free-hand sketching, the development of architecture, decorative styles and lots more.

If all that sounds rather more than you want to learn there are plenty of short courses — for instance there is a three-day workshop on decorative paint finishes, a one-day workshop on stencilling, a one-day workshop on china mending, on cushions, on lighting, on upholstery, decorating painted furniture and so on. There is too much to list so if you are interested send for the brochure.

Enriquez, Paragon House,

Lyncombe Vale Road, Bath BA2 4LF. (Tel: 0225 329900).

Enriquez used to run some wonderfully jazzy vans into which were crammed a mass of samples of every conceivable kind. These she would drive up to doors all over London and out of the back, like a magician producing the rabbit, she would devise some of the choicest schemes in London. Alas, no more.

The clamp and the parking meter have driven her to beautiful Bath where she runs three-week courses passing on the expertise she garnered over the years. In the course of the three weeks she seems to cover almost everything from how to handle the accounting and legal side of running your own business to paint effects, architecture, basic decoration like filling and priming wood, how to calculate fabric lengths and draw up plans. She runs about seven courses a year and the charge is £1,300. Write to her for further details.

Ruth Barclay Interiors, 22, London Road, London, NW8. (Tel 01-486 5787).

Ruth Barclay runs five-day intensive courses in stencilling. For just £195 (including all materials as well as lunch, tea and coffee) you can learn how

to prepare, cut and colour your own stencil design, how to cope with spray-can paints (much more difficult than all those instruction leaflets ever convey), how to apply stencils to fabrics, wood, cushions, blinds, furniture and walls. Send for the full leaflet.

The Ivy House Interior Designers, The Ivy House, High Street, Bath BA2 6NZ, Avon. (Tel: 0672 830013).

Aimed primarily not at those wishing to set up in business but at those who want to learn more about interior decorating the better to tackle their own houses. "Yes," says the brochure, "there is life after Habitat and Laura Ashley."

The four-day courses aim to help you have the know-how and the confidence to put together your own schemes and is full of the sort of tips most of us long to learn — where you can take short-cuts and where you can't, how to cut costs without it showing. Held in design studios in a Georgian house just south of Bath, the fee of £128 (plus VAT) for four days includes a light lunch but not accommodation.

L vd P

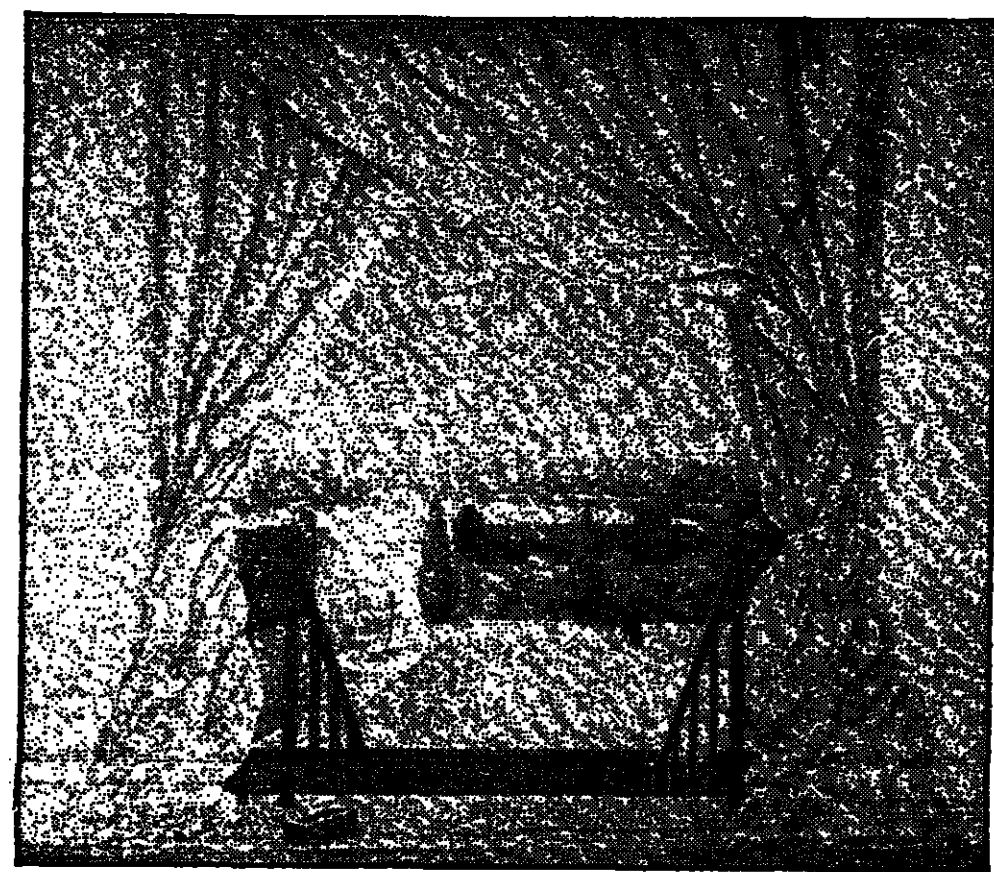
## Period pieces

Restoration details are important, says Lucia van der Post

FOR MOST of us, our house is our biggest single investment, as well as a source of almost limitless interest and pleasure. Enormous numbers of us live in what might be called "period" houses, but all too often their original proportions and many of their original details have been covered up — destroyed or, quite simply, removed in the course of the modernisation vogue that swept the UK after the war.

Anybody interested in trying to restore a period house to its former glory could hardly tackle a more daunting or a more worthwhile task. It's a project that needs patience, stamina and help. Help is at hand in the shape of *Period Details*, an inspirational book on the subject by Judith and Martin Miller, published by Mitchell Beazley. Its sub-title — *A Sourcebook for House Restoration* — says it all. In it you will find not only a pictorial or visual dictionary, period by period, room by room, detail by detail, but also a useful working address book of all the suppliers of the "ingredients" you might need.

Whether you are looking for an authentic Victorian tile to repair a floor, a doorknob that is just right, or a complete moulded ceiling cornice, the directory will yield the source. Its chief strength is that it is both inspirational and practical. No detail is too small, no problem too difficult, for the author's attention. Well worth the £14.95 outlay.



WITH THE new taste for grandeur, indoor murals are appearing in the most unlikely places. I know of one Dorset countryside where the back stairs have been totally transformed by an Italian rustic scene, and a small, dark, London dining-room whose walls are awash with painted greenery flourishing all year long and rendering the room quite magical.

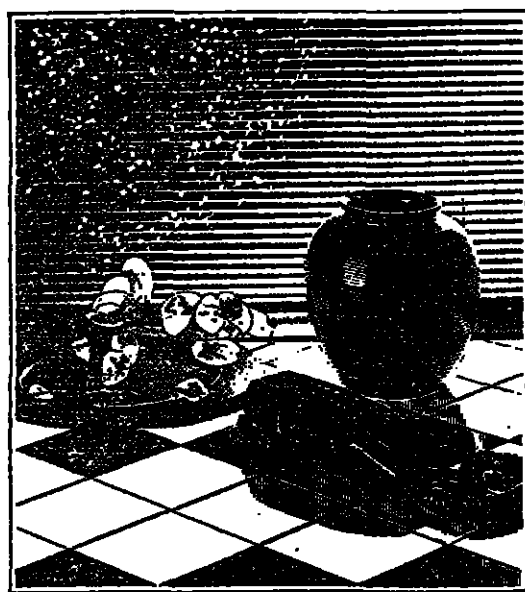
Once such things were considered follies only for the rich. In these conservative times murals are on offer to all. If

you can afford it and can find the right artist, you can get it done professionally, but if you're feeling adventurous you could try your hand at it yourself.

A book to give you courage and inspiration is Patricia Seligman's *Painting Murals* (published by Macdonald Orbis, £14.95). Apart from an illuminating historical look at wall decoration of every sort, from frescoes to mosaics and panels, it tackles the nitty gritty of the practical problems in exactly the kind of detail the novice needs.

It would be foolish to say that painting murals is for everybody — a modicum of artistic talent or "feel" is clearly required — but only a modicum. Patricia Seligman holds you by the hand, explaining clearly about perspective and planning the design of your picture. She outlines several projects in enough detail to inspire even artistic dunces like myself to have a go.

The sophisticated *trompe l'oeil* above is clearly advanced stuff but gives you some idea of the possibilities.



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AT SOTHEBY'S on Wednesday a set of the 22 die proofs for the 1910 "Double Head" issue of stamps for Rhodesia, which carry the portraits of King George V and Queen Mary, sold for £78,100, a record for an individual lot at a stamp auction at Sotheby's.

At Stanley Gibbons last week a Penny Black, still the most famous and most collected stamp in philatelic history, from plate 11, which had been estimated at £650, found a new home at £1,000.

There are reports from the United States that the famous Philadelphia Blue Boy stamp changed hands recently for over \$1m, a record for an individual stamp at auction. The Blue Boy, so called because it is printed on blue paper, was issued by the local post in 1846-47, just before the first national stamps appeared.

The evidence is there to show that stamps have recovered from the doldrums. If anything the mayhem on the world's stock exchanges this week should improve prospects because stamps have always been seen as a safe alternative investment when the more blatant ways of making money run into trouble.

The stamp story can be briefly recapitulated. In the late 1970s, when inflation soared and alternative investment became all the rage, stamps attracted a tidal wave of ignorant new buyers, egged on by unscrupulous dealers. Prices of second rate, mass produced stamps, in particular new issues and stamps of the post-1940 period, sometimes quadrupled in value in two years.

In late 1980, the bubble burst. The speculators retired, badly bruised, and for six years stamps have been a connoisseur's market with genuine collectors to the fore. There are still many stamps purchased in 1979 which would be an embarrassment on the market. Anyone who invested £1,000 in the Silver Jubilee issues of 1977 would do well to recoup £250 today.

There is a certain dread among the tightly knit stamp community that investors, heavy with money and naïveté, might sweep the market again. There are few sectors of the fine art world which require more expertise. Even during the

## Saleroom

## Stamps licked into shape



Die proofs for the 1910 "Double Head" fetched a record £78,100 at Sotheby's this week

low-key 1980s, when stamp shops were closing by the hundred and huckster dealers going bankrupt by the score, postal history has continued to rise in price, and knowledgeable buyers have built up valuable collections.

The Rhodesian stamps sold at Sotheby's this week in 1,900 lots brought in about £750,000, a tribute to the skill of their vendor, the Californian Bob Gibbs, who has now set himself the task of acquiring a complete run of the next Rhodesian issues.

As the stamp world confronts a brighter future it is a very different animal from a decade ago. The auction houses have become dominant. Christie's is the largest, selling stamps in London and Bournemouth (specialist auctions most months in the capital, with general sales on the south coast), in New York and in Zurich. Last season its turnover was \$9.5m.

Then comes Sotheby's, which has doubled its auctions

in the past year. Phillips has become a respected force and Stanley Gibbons has re-established itself. The latter is also attempting to make good the major loss which has hit the stamp world in the past decade — the disappearance of a generation of young collectors.

It is the children who take an interest in stamps who become serious buyers when they have reached prosperous middle age. If the stamp bug is not caught young it rarely bites later. Stanley Gibbons is selling stamps through Tesco supermarkets, making up for the shrinkage in specialist stamp shops, from over 300 to nearer 60 during the depressed 1980s.

If the rise of the auctions at the expense of the dealers is one consequence of the great stamp freeze the other has been the emergence of the Far East as a powerful force in the market, a direct result of economic prosperity. Some of the best collections are at home in Japan: one, of Mauritius stamps,

is insured for more than \$10m and is perpetually on the market; another, of early American stamps, is worth double that. The stamps of Far Eastern countries have, not surprisingly, risen in price.

Other areas to show an appreciation in a period of decline have been the stamps of South Africa, where they represent a portable nest egg if the political situation deteriorates, and of the Middle East. The US, where the established collecting money is commands the highest prices for its early classic issues, but the UK, the pioneer of the whole business, is still collected by foreigners as well as nationals. But an average Penny Black can be bought for 550 whereas in 1980 it was selling at nearer £80.

Although demand for the average fair quality stamp, the basic King George V issue in the £50 to £500 price range, for example, is still thin, the price of rarities has risen by up to 15 per cent in the past year.

Major collectors are preparing for the International Stamp Exhibition which is to be held in London for the first time in a decade in 1990. Gold Medals are awarded for the finest displays and winning a medal greatly boosts the value of a collection. However, those collectors who have laboured for years trying to win a prize, only to fail at the last hurdle, are likely to sell off their stamps in disgust.

Memories of the great 1980 slump should save the stamp market from the attentions of ignorant investors. It is in a good mood at the moment. Postal history, classic 19th century issues and stamps of the more prosperous parts of the world, are all showing a steady appreciation. There is even a feeling that the new issues of the early 1980s are worth collecting because demand then was so restrained.

But stamps of the 1970s might have to wait many years for their revival: even the classic issues of the countries which leapt on to the investment bandwagon, like certain West Indian and African states, were affected by the reaction. There is a spate of important auctions before Christmas. They should confirm the rude health of top quality, rare, classic stamps.

## Rarities, glories and confusions

A unique collection of Art Nouveau is on display in Norwich. Susan Moore reviews its impressive variety.

NORMAN FOSTER'S glowing glass and steel Lincoln Centre, not only shelter, tribal masks, Cycladic sculpture, Constructivist paintings, and a fine series of Bacons, Moores and Modiglianis. The least known, and most unlikely, aspect of its multifarious holdings is one of the finest collections of Art Nouveau decorative arts in the country.

For the first time since its gift to the University of East Anglia by Sir Evelyn and Lady Anderson in 1978, the collection is on display in its entirety (until December 20).

Anderson appears to have been an enthusiastic collector, whether of contemporary art, Art Nouveau, or walking giraffes. (As director of the Orient Line, he was also responsible in the 1930s for commissioning the world's first truly modern passenger liner, the RMS Orion.) He found among the earliest collectors of Art Nouveau in this country, making his first purchase in 1922 after a visit to Darmstadt.

For the following nine years, until the popularity of the objects made them too expensive, more than 150 items of Art Nouveau glass, furniture, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, metalwork and graphics found their way into the Andersons' Hampstead home in north London.

What makes the collection unique in Britain is its breadth. From the start, Anderson set out to represent European and American Art Nouveau in all its manifestations. He bought from dealers and at auction, but also scoured the junk shops. The result is that beside the outstanding examples of Gallé, Daum, and Tiffany glass, the Lalique jewellery, delicate Rozenburg eggshell earthenware, Mucha posters, Majorelle furniture, and a Morris & Co carpet, there also are humbler objects that illustrate how the style percolated down to inexpensive mass-produced goods.

His friends made their contributions, too. Amid the tulip tiles, finger plates, electroplated inkstands, celluloid hair combs and enamel brooches, that all reveal the sinuous line or organic form of Art Nouveau, is an embroidered linen cloth given by John Betjeman and a pair of brass firedogs culminating in curving buds, a gift from the painter Derek Hill.

The collection's glories are the exquisitely crafted jewels by Lalique and Georges Fouquet. The expression of form through the innovative use of material is perhaps nowhere realised more perfectly than here, where semi-precious and even worthless materials are combined with

precious stones and metals. Lalique is shown as both naturalistic and sumptuous, with a fragile horn orchid hair ornament, and a butterfly brooch where the enamel wings cling to the opal clasp, their wings coaxed out of translucent pique à jour enamel.

In Fouquet's brooch/pendant, a nautilus shell held in gold strapwork hangs beneath the purple and green enamelled leaves of a stylised orchid, its pistils and stamens made of small pearls and baroque pearls.

A great rarity is the lozenge-shaped enamelled glass vase attributed to Gallé, decorated all over with and decorated with dragonflies. A slightly later Gallé vase, of the 1890s, takes the form of a Chinese Ku bronze vessel, a reminder that Art Nouveau designers emulated the style and decoration as well as the techniques of Oriental craftsmen.

Their sources are surprisingly various. Liberty pewter is borrowed from Celtic patterns; Boris de St Petersburg's gem-encrusted silver frame is medievalising; and the lustre effect of Tiffany glass was created to suggest the surface of ancient glass that had been buried for centuries. Tiffany fused colour and decoration into his glass.

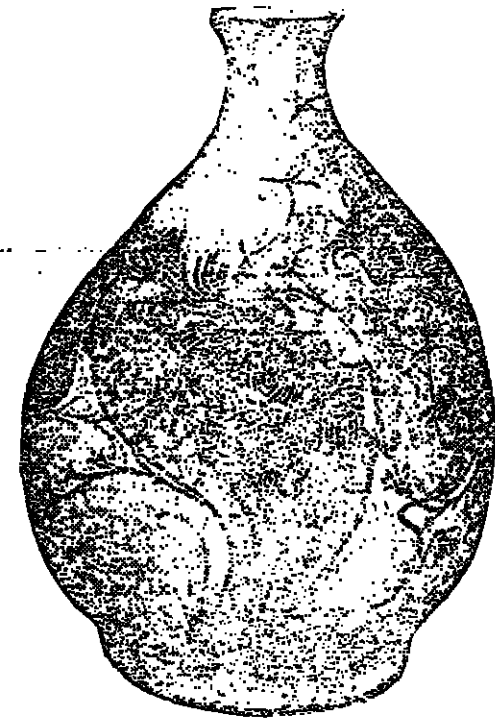
Japanese asymmetry and decoration proved a major inspiration. It is evident even in the Nancy school furniture in the collection. Here, marquetry — like Gallé's *marqueterie sur verre* — provides the means of incorporating decoration into the body of the object. Complicated and ingenious illusionistic landscapes and flowers are veneered in various woods on every flat surface of the Gallé desk, its bronze handles and lock-plates cast as flowers or insects.

Yet the cabriole legs of all but Louis Majorelle's streamlined armchair betray the origins of the workshops as manufacturers of neo-Rococo furniture. These pieces look uncomfortable in a movement where exponents professed to be anti-historicist and to advocate design reform.

Any definition of Art Nouveau is complicated by the fact that the style affected all branches of the arts around 1900, from architects to book design, and emerged virtually simultaneously in several European countries and in America. Each had its own name and peculiar characteristics.

For the English, whose simpler and more functional version of the style evolved out of Arts and Crafts principles, the term would be applied only to the "excesses" of Continental Art Nouveau as typified by the pungent sexuality of the figures of the dancer Lole Fuller, swathed in swirling and clinging drapery.

In material, geography and quality, the collection reveals the range and contradictions in Art Nouveau, and its value for study purposes. It is also enjoyable to see it in a room was for the Andersons to make.

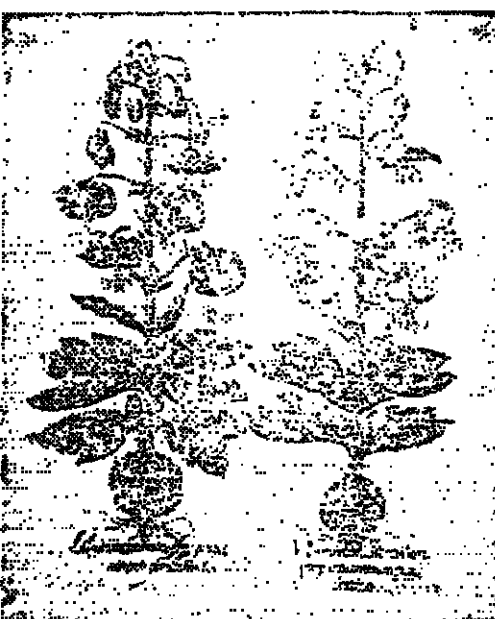


Rozenburg eggshell earthenware vase 1901

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## DIVERSIONS

John Lind joins the re-enactment of an epic voyage to Australia

## Life before the mast

I am 90 feet above the Atlantic Ocean on the top-gallant yard of the Swedish barquentine *Amorina*, a triple-masted, square-rigged sailing ship. We are midway between West Africa and Brazil. It's 5 am, I'm alone on the port side trying to furl a sail in a squall. There is only a thin foot-rope between my bare feet and the deck far below. The ship is rolling and pitching.

I grip the jack-rail (which runs along the yard). I clip my belt-harness to it and add my way out to the yardarm. Everything I touch is slippery. I try to work but cannot raise my stomach over the yard to balance my sundazed body. I take 45 minutes over a 15 minute task. At last I clamber down the rigging to the deck's security, swallow a large brandy and ask myself why I am risking my life like this—and paying good money to do so. The squall gives way to a spectacle of pink and gold.

I was sailing for Australia as a paying trainee with a fleet of eight square-rigged sailing ships re-enacting an epic voyage. On that journey 200 years ago eleven ships sailed from Portsmouth to Botany Bay transporting the first batch of convicts. It took more than eight months via Tenerife, Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town—an odyssey of such magnitude it could be compared with a mission of eleven space-ships to Mars today.

The re-enactment is the fruition of a dream for Dr Jonathan King, an Australian historian who, in 1971, and his wife, Philip Gidley King, had been an officer in the first fleet. Jonathan King found a kindred spirit in corporate executive Wally Franklyn. They had to travel a rough and lonely road, seeking commercial sponsors. Lack of finance dogged the venture, but on May 13 the re-enactment received a royal send-off from Portsmouth.

I had minimal sailing experience. On board Soren Larsen at Portsmouth I tried to appear an "old salt" but tripped on the gangplank. The predominantly British crew was sympathetic. It was relieved that many fellow-trainees were inexperienced. Chris Fox, 23, from Surrey, was sailing all the way to Sydney yet the Isle of Wight

was the furthest he had ever been before. And by ferry. More than half the fleet's 143 voyagers were from Australia, and British. Next, numerically, were Scandinavians, Americans, Canadians, and New Zealanders. Lack of publicity meant spare berths on the early legs.

On the Soren Larsen my accommodation was a bunk, no wider than a coffin, in a cabin resembling a large cupboard which I shared with three other trainees. John Elliott, from Wapping, was escaping stress at work. We were to become good mates. Our "cupboard" was one of a dozen, each constructed around the mess from new timber. The screaming during the voyage would become almost intolerable. Each of us had a single drawer beneath the bunks. A dark recess was the place to thrust a jacket or to throw boots. Ablutions could be performed in either of three communal heads but fresh-water showers were not permitted for at least a week. None of us trainees were yet hardy enough to pour buckets of seawater over ourselves in the brisk weather of the English Channel. We became the great unwashed. Memories of bubble-baths, crisp sheets and clean clothes faded.

Sea-sickness was something which had to be faced for a while. Fleet surgeon Robert Simpson's remedy was a Scop patch placed behind the ear. It contained a chemical which caused blurred vision among some but was highly effective. I only felt queasy on my fourth day. After one week I did not have to wear the patch. Home-sickness came as a sudden wave when the *Lind* was sighted from eight miles away. The sight of England again for almost a year. Convicts 200 years earlier would not have seen England nor their loved ones. Some of us sensed their anguish.

Dr King instilled a sense of history and occasion into the ship's company. Some 200 years ago the shipping lanes had been busier and there were more dolphins. On May 15 1787 the fleet had hauled aboard 60 oaks of Dutch oak found floating in the Channel. We were not so lucky. Days and nights blurred as one watch led into another with brief respite. Twelve to four. Four to eight. Eight to 12.

The "graveyard watch" from midnight to 4 am was the hardest—a nocturnal watch without the reward of sunrise. Nightwatch look-out was the most tedious. For an hour at a time one would stare into darkness. Helmsman at night was the most romantic duty. I would grasp the large wooden wheel with both hands, follow the designated course by glancing at the compass, sails and stars and pride myself that the ship had been entrusted to me.

One afternoon, somewhere off the Bay of Biscay, I noticed a blue plastic sheet floating by. In our void it seemed a major event. I entered the observation into the watch-log. My perspectives were changing. I was in two worlds. One was almost silent, empty and floating. The other was a crowded world of cramped conditions, of creaking, pitching and tossing in which I stumbled and bruised myself daily.

Rigging is a term which embraces all ropes, wires or chains used to support the masts and yards and for hoisting, lowering or trimming sails to the wind. In a square-rigged ship this is extensive and complex. The sails and rigging were the centre of our world. They were our "cabinets" of natural energy and our link with the world. We struggled to learn their secrets, the function of the halyards, bunt lines, sheets, braces, clew lines, downhalls and preventers and which pin-rail to run to and which belay to attend.

There is a particularly nerve-racking moment when climbing aloft. It is getting over the futtock shrouds beneath the top (a small platform up a mast). After climbing 30 ft up the redline one has to lean out backwards into thin air with only arms and a foot in contact with the quivering rigging. Bossa John Gryk's advice was: "If you hold on you won't fall off." It was essential to trust oneself. Three months later on the *Amorina* I would be confident enough to dance on the highest yard in the fleet.

The single disappointment of the re-enactment is its failure to sail as a fleet. Fleet sailing is saved for arrival and departure from ports as a public spectacle. On the high seas we were fortunate to see any of our ships. This was particularly distressing in the immense South Atlantic when

me onto a shroud. But by then I had the confidence to know that the next pitch would return me to the rigging in a matter of seconds.

Food varied from ship to ship. Supplies had to be carefully calculated. On one ship the crew was down to flour, water and sunflower seeds a week of Brazil. Flying fish and flying squid hit the deck or flew through open ports but few fish were caught off the side. Anna Kristina lost a hook to a stable shark.

Cleaning the heads was part of our duties. When the *Amorina* listed severely the heads would "give" more than they "received," a hazardous situation for those with open wounds. One day I observed an exhausted friend scrubbing out the heads. I knew he had paid over \$30,000 for the eight-month voyage. I thought of the voluntary inmates in the film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and wondered if we had joined them.

It had taken the first fleet 55 days to sail from Tenerife to Rio de Janeiro, using the north-east trade winds to the doldrums to pick up the south-east trades and the Brazil current. The re-enactment would break up this long leg with calls at the Cape Verde Islands off Senegal, Salvador-Bahia in Northern Brazil and Bouzos, a fashionable resort a day north of Rio. Exotic ports of call were our rewards for the long days and nights at sea. (The sea was our reward from the frenetic ports. We enjoyed visits by dolphins, saw meteor showers, glorious sunrises, sunsets and nights when stars and phosphorescence seemed to dance together.)

Hump-backed whales made rare appearances. One memorable day off the Spanish coast the crews of *Amorina*, *Kristina* and *New Zealand's* R. Tucker Thompson, a gaff-top sail brig, swam among pods of dolphins and northern bottlenose whales.

The single disappointment of the re-enactment is its failure to sail as a fleet. Fleet sailing is saved for arrival and departure from ports as a public spectacle. On the high seas we were fortunate to see any of our ships. This was particularly distressing in the immense South Atlantic when



"A crowded world of cramped conditions, of creaking, pitching and tossing..."

the *Amorina* became separated from the flagship by more than 500 miles. She and the *Bounty* are the two largest in the fleet.

*Amorina's* skipper Captain Sven Stromberg honoured trainees' expectations to sail and took her on a lonely course far south to catch stronger winds. She was the only ship in the fleet to visit the remote island of Tristan da Cunha which receives only eight ships per year. After a stormy passage we saw her at dawn like a great slumbering whale, a grey Ayers Rock. Rough seas prevented landing. We were still only half way to Africa. It was a relief to see Table Mountain's distinct form, glowing red and gold at sunrise on September 9. We had sailed for 31 days from South America to Africa and survived.

So the re-enactment sails on from the Cape of Good Hope to the only two major diversions from the original route —

Mauritius in the Indian Ocean (estimated time of arrival October 29) and Fremantle in Western Australia (estimated time of arrival December 12). I believe the growing pains are over. Henrik Nielsen's *Arath*—lost at sea in the South Atlantic—joined us into a sense of reality and solidarity. We realised we were not simply part of a re-enactment but a voyage of jeopardy and dignity in our own right. Last minute funding from the Australian Bicentennial Authority had got the fleet out of Portsmouth. A heart-warming response from the Australian public raised enough money to fund it to Sydney (estimated time of arrival January 26 1988). This will be exactly 200 years after Commodore Arthur Phillip landed the first spotters of Australian Aboriginal culture.

Tickets can be obtained from Teachers World. Phone 01-832 8164.

Simon Tait looks at a history of the Royal College of Art

## RCA label for the stars

WITH THE gnome Sir Henry reviveth over Horsley's predecessor, Cole so constantly at the centre of things around the mid-19th century — reorganising the Public Record Office; devising sticky stamps for his friend Rowland Hill; encouraging Thackeray to get on and write something decent; commissioning the first Christmas card; creating the Great Exhibition and inventing South Kensington — it is hard not to have him at the start of the Royal College of Art.

"We must have steam — get Cole" was Prince Albert's joke. So it comes as a surprise to find that the RCA was not, as I had always thought, a child of Cole's most enduring creation, the Victoria and Albert Museum. "On the contrary," says Christopher Frayling, professor of cultural history at the college. "The V and A was to all intents and purposes the college's visual aids unit."

Frayling's history of the RCA is to be published next week. It is a title hints at the constant war there has always been between the ethics of art and of design, really reconciled only quite recently.

It is at times a farcical story which started with a controversy of quite a different sort. The Government School of Design, it was called first, was set up in the year of Queen Victoria's accession, 1837, after 13 years of lobbying by the Romanticist painter Benjamin Haydon, a member of the art establishment which, to him, was the Royal Academy. But it was the RA which was given control.

The idea was to give industrial nominees a training in "high art" to improve the performance of manufacturing industry; but partly because the average age of the first students was 14, and partly because the RA schools felt their domain was green and immature for life classes were forbidden. The school started in Somerset House; and if the RCA's recent history seems blood-spattered—14 of the 17 have been gone—it is nothing compared with the first decade. In 1845 there was even a students'

Robin Darwin great-grandson of Charles was principal from 1948 to 1971, and he brought change. Darwin it was who had the college moved from its various "shacks and mansions" into a mainly central unit at Kensington Gore. It became a wholly post-graduate college with university status, and in 1967 it was given a Royal charter with Darwin as rector.

The RCA has never ceased to be volatile but has reassigned itself to producing both artists and designers who can become stars: Auerbach, Kossoff, Middlethigh, Hockney, Kitaj, Blake, Zandra Rhodes, Ossie Clark, David Meador, Alan Irvine, Mary Quant, Kenneth Grange. Auerbach is still a part of college life.

\* The Royal College of Art: 150 Years of Art and Design. Published on October 28 by Barrie and Jenkins; £19.95 hardback, £12.95 paperback.

John Elliott looks at reading traditions in India

## Ready for a book boom

LOOK AT the business executive next to you on an internal Indian airline flight and the odds are he will be reading a guide on how to be a better manager or a current affairs magazine. Scan the walls of well-furnished homes in New Delhi and other cities—rarely will there be shelves packed with books, certainly not books that have been read.

India has no tradition of reading for pleasure. Books come last in most educated people's spending priorities, in spite of a great thirst for knowledge. Its main Hindu religion and its culture is usually communicated orally, rarely by reading, and during the past few years a television and video boom has dominated leisure time for the well off.

"You go to a rich man's house or you go on an internal airline flight and you won't find a book—there'll be magazines and newspapers," says Mr Kushwant Singh, a veteran author and columnist. "The publishers earn their living on text books, with universities and schools making up a large proportion

of what is sold. But Mr Singh and other informed observers believe the book market may be expanding, especially on the demands of a growing university population, now 5m.

The number of newspaper and magazine titles has grown from 14,500 in 1977 to more than 21,000, with a combined circulation, in 1983, of 55m (according to official statistics). They include sophisticated magazines such as *India Today*, a current affairs fortnightly with a 380,000 circulation in English and 240,000 in Hindi, India's main language.

New Penguin Books, the international paperback publishers based in England, is setting out to test the growth of the Penguin India has been launched in partnership with Ananda Publishers of Calcutta. It plans to publish about 24 fiction and non-fiction titles a year, concentrating on new works by Indian authors writing in English and translations from India's regional languages.

All statistics are vague and unreliable in India. But it is estimated that while adult literacy may now extend to 40 per cent of India's population of 760m-800m, about 2 per cent of the population speak English, which is the common language binding together a country of 16 regional languages, dozens of dialects. Publishers estimate that more than half India's English-speakers buy books—a potential market of 4m or more people.

English claims to be the seventh largest publisher of books in the world—about 14,500 new titles a year in all its 16 languages—and the third largest English language publisher (5,000 new titles a year) after the US and UK.

English books have been published in India since the early 1800s. At the beginning of this century the main publishers from the UK were Oxford University Press, Green, and Macmillan, all of which are still there, and Blackie, which has left India.

In the 1970s the Indian publishing business was boosted by the US, which provided surplus funds from its PL480 low-cost loans to finance Indian reprints of US educational titles. US publishers such as McGraw Hill, Wiley and Prentice Hall now operate in India.

But in spite of this considerable history of English language publishing, the quality of writing (as well as the paper, printing and binding) is poor and uneven. A well-known Indian publisher's name like Rupa and Vikas on a book does not guarantee quality, mainly because very few Indian publishing houses have editors—even fewer editors who combine experience with authority.

Some publishers argue that it is a lack of good, reliable, consistent publishing, not India's cultural traditions, that has slowed growth in recent years. "There is a genuine book hunger in this country, but publishers are not taking account of it," says Mr Tejeshwar Singh of Sage Publications, a joint non-fiction venture with Sage of



the US.

"There is a ready reading public. The problem is a lack of reading editors and publishers," says Mr Ravi Dayal. "Most Indian publishers are illiterate—they produce the book of their friends," adds Mr Kushwant Singh.

Mr Kushwant Singh is consultant editor, hopes to change that pattern with books of consistent editorial standards and, for India, unusually high production quality.

The launch list of six books

by Indian authors includes a first comic novel, *Fowl-Filcher*, by Ranga Rao; a translation of a well-known Bengali novel, *Arjun*, by Sunil Gangopadhyay; and a collection of poems by Dom Moraes.

Other publishers consider the launch a cautious one. But Penguin hopes that one day, such as it is, to recently successful Indian authors such as Salman Rushdie, Anita Desai, Amitav Ghosh and Vikram Seth will go first to Penguin India instead of looking abroad for the kudos of a foreign publisher.

High Street Wine

## Young appeal

WAITROSE lists more than 100 white wines, mostly dry; and at a recent tasting it showed 20, on a couple of desert ones at the end. Nearly all were from the 1986 vintage, which you would expect to find in most merchants' and restaurant lists.

The positive attack, "that such young wines usually have in common with many consumers, too, particularly those types made from the Sauvignon grape; and the quick turnover of wines a year or less old is obviously popular with growers, merchants and restaurateurs as well. Often, though, such wines tend to be somewhat green and immature.

It is partly a matter of personal taste. When once I suggested to a leading Sancerre grower that his product tasted better after six months or so in bottle, he replied that he was at his best in the January after the vintage: hard on the stomach for many of us.

So, when a green "strike" is attributed to any of the wines, this might not be considered by some a reason for rejecting or delaying opening them. All are in 75 cl bottles unless otherwise stated.

Castille, Valencia, N.V. (£1.95-70 cl). People might be a little suspicious these days of wines priced below £2 a bottle but this is very fresh and fruity with some oak flavour that gives it a slight char-donnay-style bouquet. A good example of the greatly improved wines you might expect to see coming from Spain, and very good value.

Rioja Anares, 1985 (£2.75-70cl). There are few good white Riojas. This one is typically oaky, poorly balanced and distinctly acidic. Rioja, Marqués de Murrieta, 1982 (£4.45). On the other hand, Murrieta is well-known for its excellent white Riojas and this one has a lovely full nose and a delightfully oaky texture, a little too much so, but seductive. Good value for those who like their Riojas white.

Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Dom. de Planterien, 1986 (£2.15-70cl). Another of these recently produced Gascon wines, made from Ugni Blanc—the grapt of armagnac—and 30 per cent Colombard. The nose is attractive but the flavour is still rather green on the palate.

Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, Dom. de Terriquet, 1986 (£3.95). This, interestingly, is the same wine as above, but matured for some months in small oak casks. As a result it has much more bouquet, a fuller flavour and is less green. For my money, it is worth the higher price.

Muscadet de Sèvre de Maine, Dom. de Chateaux, 1986 (£2.75). The aroma is a little closed but there is more flavour on a couple of desert ones at the end. Nearly all were from the 1986 vintage, which you would expect to find in most merchants' and restaurant lists.

Vin de Haut-Poitou, 1986 (£2.95). A VDQS wine, this is typical Sauvignon with a strong nose and a rather thrusting flavour. Blanc Fumé, Les Grottes-Bailly, 1986 (£4.95). The nose is fine and fresh but the taste is green and immature for my taste. A very typical Pouilly-Fumé from the Sauvignon grape.

Chablis, Jean-Claude Dauvissat, 1986 (£3.95). The distinctly oaky nose and a rather thrusting flavour. "Strike" in the taste. Perhaps one from one of the newer vineyards of the expanding Chablis vineyard area. For those who like their Chablis very young and fresh.

Houghton Supreme, 1986 (£3.75). This West Australian wine from a leading producer is an unusual combination of 50 per cent Chenin and 50 per cent Muscadelle. A fairly soft oaky nose and flavour, with strong acidity at the end that will probably ensure its development with a year or so in bottle.

Waitrose Gewürztraminer d'Alsace, 1986 (£3.15). A typical example of a highly distinctive wine and still quite aggressive on the palate, but even now perfectly suited to go with smoked foods that kill most other wines.

Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling, 1985 (£4.45). Certainly not a dry wine by German standards, but not sweet enough to avoid with light savoury foods. With a lovely Riesling bouquet, good food acidity and plenty of fruit, the grosslage (district) wine comes from the Lauerberg estate that owns a tiny portion of the Doktor vineyard.

Jurançon, Curvie, Quadrifera, 1984 (£3.15). From the big co-operative just outside Pau, the curvie name recalls King Henri Quatre's fondness for the local Maubert grape, this is the classic delicately well-firm wine peculiar to this south-west France district. Excellent value.

Moulins Touchais, 1979 (£5.95). This unusual Anjou wine from the Chenin grape has a balance of acidity that prevents its richness from being just bombastic. An experience to drink that amateurs of fine sweet wine should not miss.

Edmund Penning-Rowse

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## Back in time



## Country Notes

LAST weekend I went back in time by half a century. There we were, my wife and I, sitting in the dim glow of an oil lamp (second hand) and eating soup warmed up on a camping stove, listening to a radio for which fortunately we had batteries.

There were candles in the hall but no mains electricity and no hot water because the oil-fired boiler depends on the same vital spark as the rest of my farming life. Outside, I knew the reservoir would soon be empty, leaving without water the stock belonging to three farms that depend on the same well. There were 1,000 ewes, 350 dairy cows and 1,000 pigs—plus 20 houses, a mill and mixing plant, my petrol pump and so on.

Like everywhere else in the south of England, the emergency began on Friday morning although the real impact of the storm was made clear only as the new bulletins rolled in. London was blacked out, they said (about time, too, I thought—were often get that and get little sympathy for it). The men came to work with reports of fallen trees, so it was all hands to the chainsaw to clear the roads.

The power of the wind became evident when I saw some oaks in the home paddock—solid trees of considerable age which had been stripped of heavy branches. Luckily, the

sheep in the field had not been lying beneath them.

I and my neighbours rang the electricity board. When would we get power again? No promises could be made—in fact, the calls often were not answered. It was frustrating to learn that two neighbouring villages still had power. The phones were still working and a great deal of negotiation was

going on to find room for the contents of deep freezers before they turned to mush.

On Saturday, the reservoir ran dry, but the current was restored to the house and farm late on Friday night, there seemed to be a chance that the pump would be working on Saturday. It was not to be. The pump needed a three-phase supply and we only had two phases. We bombarded the electricity board with requests for help and reached only secretaries skilled in stonewalling.

They took no notice of tales of cows bellowing round empty troughs, of the squeals of thirty pigs, of households having to live without central heating and cooked meals. They were working day and night and doing the best they could. Then we were encouraged by the rumour that a team of linemen was working towards us and would be there that night. But they were not.

By Sunday morning we had some sort of routine, using a sprayer tanker to pick up water in the next village for the pigs. Fortunately it had been cleaned

out, but watering the pigs is a messy job as they rely on bowls for the most part.

In the house (and all the houses affected) we were wondering how much longer the contents of the cold water tanks would last before we had to switch off the central heating and the hot water and rely on rain water for the loo. It takes a three-gallon bucket to get a decent flush. The electricity people were no help at all ("you are not on the board for today"). And that was that.

Considering the forces of the storm, we did not suffer too badly in actual damage. The roof of one building, a pig shelter, was blown in bits for some 800 yards and a row of quite strong shelter trees was cut in half. The woods were a mass of fallen branches—damage made worse by the heavy leaf the trees are still carrying. The dying chestnut in front of the house—which we were intending to replace—lost all its leaves but without the storm otherwise because it offered less resistance.

There were lessons to be learnt. Keep a supply of batteries and Calor gas cylinders up to date. Get hold of a three-phase mobile generator. Secure a new water tank. And hope this will never happen again while I am here.

John Cherrington











## ARTS

THERE ARE two ways of painting the current operatic scene in Paris. The first looks like this: Paris has never had it so good. For the first year in living memory, four established theatres are each offering an international season of opera. Paris is at last beginning to recognise the value of the French baroque operatic heritage. The success of recent profit-making promotions at the Palais Garnier—packing more people into an indoor Verona-style stadium in three weeks than visit the Opéra in a whole season—proves there is a vast, untapped audience for opera. The prospect of the opening of the new Opéra Bastille in July 1989 heralds the day when Paris will be restored to its rightful place as the international capital of opera.

Neither picture is entirely misleading. What is clear is that the opening of the Opéra Bastille on July 14 1989 could have the same revolutionary effect on the Parisian cultural landscape as the reform of the Bastille had on political life 200 years ago. In the meantime, for the sheer number of seats available and people willing to fill them, Paris represents a bigger market-place for opera than any other city in the world. Of all nations to enjoy the current boom in opera, the French appear to be the most avid consumers.

Even if it means taking on some extra baggage from the Socialist press, the Chirac government recognises that an expanding cultural life is part of the fabric of national pride: how else to explain the 5.6 per cent increase in next year's subsidy to the performing arts, well above the rate of inflation?

There is, however, a large element of chance in this sudden operatic diversity. Some projects are simply coming to public awareness now after years of preparation—such as the government-funded Centre of Baroque Music at Versailles, which opened its doors earlier this month for a weekend of 17th-century French opera.

Another noteworthy event is the re-opening of the privately-owned Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, after more than a year of work to restore its original



Leona Mitchell as Suor Angelica in Puccini's "Il Trittico" at the Opéra Comique

## Enter the Opera Bastille

A period of upheaval has begun on the Paris operatic scene. Andrew

Clark reports

art-deco splendour. In addition to its previous package of concerts, recitals and the occasional guest production, the theatre is offering an opera season (including two staged Ring cycles next Spring) without a centime of state subsidy. It opened a week ago with *Die Zauberflöte*, the latest in a series of annual Mozart productions combining the talents of Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, Daniel Barenboim and the Orchestre de Paris, the city's main concert orchestra.

The production is typical of the current Parisian operatic diet: plenty of big names working on ideas that have already been tried out elsewhere. Paris deserves better. The combination of teaching problems in the new computerised stage mechanism, Ponnelle's idea of placing the orchestra on stage as a main protagonist, and Barenboim's slow, unfeeling tempi gave the opening performance an atmosphere of supreme artifice.

Apart from the Opéra, the other main promoter of lyric theatre is the Théâtre-Musical de Paris-Châtelet, where the staging of imported productions is established policy. On similar lines to its successful Italian season two years ago, the theatre is concentrating on German opera in coming months, with good casts and conductors.

It is at the Opéra that the

lack of original ideas is most alarming. Last season, only *Atys* shored up its fading prestige. After some all-too-familiar packaging of *Norma* and *Macbeth* in the pre-Christmas period, the current season holds some promise, with a Janacek series plus a new *Thais* at the Opéra Comique. But the Opéra's programmes have a habit of looking better on paper than the finished product. Strikes, cancellations, mismanagement, lack of central authority—all play a part.

The situation has not been helped by the rapid turnover of directors, who either lost interest or walked out before finishing their contracts. Since the Lieberman era in the 1970s, there has been no continuity, no sense of long-term planning, no one able to impose his personality on the Opéra's vast organisation or surmount the jungle of orchestral and industrial problems. The state has continued to pay up—an astonishing 300 million franc annual subsidy (\$51m)—but

has been getting an increasingly poor return on its investment.

Enter the Opéra Bastille: can it offer a fresh start and develop into a lively cultural organism similar to the Centre Pompidou? The project was inaugurated six years ago as one of the Socialist government's proposed new landmarks to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. It was put on hold by the Chirac government after last year's elections, but building work was so far advanced that the project could not be cancelled. Since construction resumed a year ago, there has been a lively debate over whether the original plan should be scaled down.

The main components devised by the Canadian architect Carlos Ott were a 2,700-seat main auditorium, an experimental stage or salle modulable, and a large area devoted to stage workshops or ateliers. The debate has centred on a government plan to scrap the experimental stage, gain some extra income by renting out the atelier space and farm out the

making of costumes and scenery to private contractors. In the intervening period, however, the government seems to have slowly come round to acknowledging that the Bastille project offers a unique opportunity to shake up the creaking organisation of the Opéra, and is therefore worthy of wholehearted investment.

A final decision on the experimental stage and ateliers is expected soon. The pointers are that both will be completed with modifications, after the teething problems of the building have been solved. The next stage in January is the opening of negotiations with the unions on future manning levels. Instead of the 2,000 staff currently running the Palais Garnier and Opéra-Comique, the Bastille is to operate with a payroll of 900 and a subsidy only marginally higher than at present. The ballet, still under Rudolf Nureyev, will continue at the Palais Garnier, which will be used for gala opera and concert performances, for visiting ensembles, and for some of the programmes promoted by the Bastille: the opera-Comique will close at the end of this season, pending a new role, possibly as a finishing stage for opera singers in the 1990s.

In the 20 months before the opening, the Bastille's management faces a daunting task. Al-

though the opening season has already been designated a "trial run" to be shared with the Palais Garnier, Barenboim must quickly find production teams and singers worthy of the occasion. Vozlinsky, a man of charm and determination who organised a radical re-structuring of Radio France's musical output in the 1970s, may as a last resort have to "do a Wapping" on the unions if negotiations turn nasty. There is already talk of using the Orchestre de Paris as the house orchestra, partly because of the lamentable state of the Opéra orchestra, and also because the Bastille is to have its own concert programme.

There are plenty of unanswered questions. Will the official policy of improvisation, in planning the new project and its relation to existing theatres, work to the advantage of Parisian musical life in the long term? What will happen to the repertoire conceived for the morale at the Opéra, where many of which has already been hijacked by the Palais Garnier? Can anything be done to prevent the current deterioration of morale at the Opéra, where many staff, including the current director, Jean-Louis Martinoty, are not to be re-employed? For better or for worse, a period of upheaval has begun. The government hopes that the new building will allow twice the number of spectators to experience the quality of the performance at half the current box-office price—all for the same annual state investment. That is the theory of "popular opera". No, let's see how it works in practice.

nel, *A Germ Is Born*, written and played by Joe Griffiths. This was a musical about the social problems of a germ born in a lab, with songs like "You're never alone when you're a house-mite." Perhaps keener listeners found it instructive.

Collectors of jazz classic recordings re-processed and re-mastered by Robert Parker (REB643, Duke Ellington, and REB644, Duke Ellington and Eddie Lang. Collectors of another kind will go for *The Classic Years*—REB645, Ring Crosby 1937 to 1938, REB646, Al Bowlley (anyone remember him?), REB650, assorted American big bands like Roger Wolfe Kahn, Jean Goldkette, Paul Whiteman, Guy Lombardo and so on, and REB651, Love Songs (1929-1935). Also on cassette and CD.

B. A. Young

### Radio

## Cruising with Sundowner

Sundowner. Its first owner, Commander Lightoller (who had been Second Officer on the *Titanic*), had her converted from an Admiralty steam tug, named for which he paid £40. He used her to cruise about the North Sea coasts, and when war threatened in 1939 the Government got him to look at some possible German invasion points. They were never used, but Sundowner did sterling work at Dunkirk, bringing home no fewer than 130 troops.

On Lightoller's death, the next owner took her to Alicante, where he spent four years, 18 months of which were passed in gaol on suspicion of murder and bank robbery. Sundowner came home to England

in 1964 and spent another 10 years on the North Sea before being sold for £25,000 to her final owner. He spent masses of money on her, and she was almost at once caught in weather that completely swamped her. She had to be taken home, where she was bought for £600 by the East Kent Maritime Trust for their museum.

Patrick Stenson wrote the script and his sister Diana Stenson did the production, so I suppose it was she who gave us the full set of sound effects, from the BBC seagulls, the screaming of the *Titanic* passengers, the war at Dunkirk, the chugging of the engine and the howling of the wind, to be

the congratulatory speeches at the museum.

The Monday Play on Radio 4 was Diana Bishop's *Errors of the Past*, which compared and contrasted the lives of two cousins, Claudia (Janet Maw), a successful singer of protest songs who made a lot of money when she was young and retired early into a cosy maturity, and Barbara, married to Thomas, a real practising dissident in Eastern Europe, who has to come home a penniless refugee. This is what I call a landscape play, not dependent so much on plot as on overall situation. Nothing very serious happens to Claudia, who is always in the foreground; it is to Barbara (Valeria Sarruf)

that events occur, but what exactly they are we are never told, nor about Thomas either. There is a good deal of pleasure in the same quality of more explicable than any the occasional intrusions of a schoolmistressly voice not apparently connected with anyone in the play, designed, I take it, either to tell us what to think or to tell Claudia and Barbara. Richard Wortley, the director, was never seduced into giving us much in the way of protest songs, though he had the supporting group available in the cast.

Last Saturday's documentary on Radio 4 must have been about the least sympathetic thing I ever heard on this chan-

### Records

## Schmidt redivivus

The first thing to be said about Schmidt's music is that it is cogently affecting: it carries an expressive power, beyond any but the best music of his Expressionist contemporaries. His burden is personal and palpably original, despite its traditional-consensus idiom. Though it is obviously "well-made"—he was a master, in the most academically admired ways—what's most moving in Schmidt's pieces owes no more to educated routine than it does to consciously up-to-date experimenting.

In fact he admired Schoenberg (and even organised a performance of *Pierrot lunaire* with his own students): it was, simply, natural to him to compose in more old-fashioned idiom. It developed remarkably, but never advanced as fast or as far as that of the Schoenberg circle, nor in such vividly theatrical ways. Hence the exciting impact of the new recorded cycle of his symphonies (which cover his whole career): a powerful but gently reticent personality makes itself felt, little by little, each work gaining through being discovered in the light of the others.

Schmidt died at the brink of World War Two, in his 65th year. He had been a professional organist, pianist and cellist (Mahler insisted on having him as first cello whenever he conducted the Vienna

State Opera; Schmidt equally admired Mahler's conducting, but thought his symphonies "cheap novels"), and later an enormously respected teacher. His mature music seemed to come too late for its time, and far too late to capture the post-war imagination. Besides, old Schmidt had been innocently attracted by the ideals the Nazis professed, which made him an embarrassing candidate for postwar revival.

Though Decca released Zubin Mehta's brilliantly recorded performance of the dramatic and haunting Fourth Symphony some years ago, the only follow-up was a tamer Supraphon version of the Third by Libor Pesek. Now Opus has done Schmidt proud, with the complete cycle played by the excellent Radio Symphony of his home town (but it was Pozsony in Hungary where he was born, not Czech Bratislava—he was in fact three-quarters

Hungarian) and conducted by his pupil Ludovít Rajter. 80 years old when the recordings were made last year.

Granted that the scherzos of the last two symphonies are taken at an old man's comfortable tempo—though they retain their sturdy character—all the music sounds wonderfully idiomatic, limned purposefully and warmly with the unshowy ease that belongs to Schmidt's un-melodramatic style. The CDs are so far available only as a package, which means having to acquire the lighter-weight First (completed when he was 25) along with the later, greater works but it illuminates, and in turn is illuminated by, the towering *Inventions* of the Second (with similar inspiration from Baroque music and from *Die Meistersinger*) and the radiant lyrical Third. In due course we shall doubtless get more insistently analytical, sharper-cut performances;

Rajter's do honour to another kind of standard. Where the Third Symphony—the Austrian prizewinner in 1929—competition for a symphony in the spirit of Schubert—is limpid, serene and lovely, the Fourth strikes a note of muted but memorable tragedy, with its keening solo trumpet at beginning and end (like Schmidt's own trumpet practising in the Vienna Woods) and its central elegy with cello (his beloved daughter had recently died in childbirth). You do not need programme-notes to recognise the compelling musical unity of the work—though Harold Truscott's devoted study of the symphony's (Toccata Press, with Schmidt's own autobiographical sketch and a Keller memoir) is full of articulate insights.

The Fourth was completed in 1933, but there were large works yet to come: the Piano Concerto (still unpublished in its original form) for Ludwig Wittgenstein's one-armed brother, the last Quintet—and the apocalyptic Book with Seven Seals after the Revelations of St. John. That colossal oratorio has kept a revered place in Austrian music while remaining almost unknown outside the country. Zagrossek's new recording at last makes it available to an international audience. *Das Buch* is a work of literal

piety, with a tenderly objective narrator-Evangelist like Bach's (here the committed Peter Schreier) and extraordinary butational inventions on a formidable scale to represent St. John's visions, rivaling Scriabin in sonority and (given the Schmidt norm of faultless musical reasoning) just as able to portray dismaying abysses. There is nothing remotely operatic about the oratorio, except perhaps its violent switches in distance between cool narration (sometimes recitative, sometimes with full symphonic pomp), dramatic vignettes for solo voices and huge choral outcries.

Dark organ meditations separate the three main parts of the work, like private reflections by the composer himself. They are more easily fathomed than the strange character of the whole, which seems at once tremendous and starkly detached: there is perhaps a special stamp of Austrian piety which takes special fathoming. This performance leads one a long way into it.

David Murray

Chess No. 694

1 Q-Q8, If 1... R-R8; 2 QxP, R-R7; 3 Q-KR1, If 1... K-R8; 2 Q-N5 ch, K-N8; 3 Q-KN1.

## Four Wesker vignettes

THE LAST of Arnold Wesker's slender vignettes *Four Portraits at the Man in the Moon* pub theatre in Chelsea's World's End is the most interesting, not least because neither audience nor actress seems sure how ironically it is intended. This is Deborah, "woman as mother earth" as the programme has it, in flowing arty smock, chatting with deadly brightness to an invisible companion as she wheels her trolley through the supermarket: life-giving bounty, outpouring generosity personified. "I've got three of them," she says with pride. She refers to children but it might be to synonyms for every occasion. "I loved carrying them, giving birth to them, sucking them," she rhapsodises, and the sight of three packets of meat for the price of two arouses in her the excitement the author obviously feels for bargain packs of words.

For Deborah the giving of shelter and nourishment is a profession, consisting not only of cooking, washing and ironing, but budgeting, stocking up and planning ahead. She sees home as a haven, a womb, an anchor, where even pot plants are watered, pruned, talked to. Needed, wanted and depended on, she glories in it. "Me the prisoner?" Never! she triumphantly avers, a dubious orchestra, partly because of the lamentable state of the Opéra orchestra, and also because the Bastille is to have its own concert programme.

We also meet the black-suited Miriam, failed mother, tearfully confiding to her unseen psychiatrist. She regrets her own failure, but her husband, blaming himself, then her parents and a hate of noise, violence and shouting (has the

figure three some mystic significance for Mr Wesker?). This cameo suffers most from the brevity of the writer's chosen form (each portrait lasts about 12 minutes).

The opening vignettes are pleasant, unoriginal and predictable. Although the compilation's full title is *Four Portraits... of Mothers*, Naomi is the mother who never was, her early life spent looking after an invalid parent then a sick sister. In hairnet and pinnies she sits before the television ("I just switch on and think of other things") talking to herself, "no one in the middle of nowhere," or to her nephew on the phone. Even at 16 minutes the sketch is too wispy to arouse much more than generalised sympathy; and the pay-off line, "I wish he would have my son," is too obvious to avoid anti-climax.

The evening opens with loving mother Ruth cajoling, teasing, reproving (it must be catching), her offstage daughter as she packs for their joint skiing holiday. A deliberately unmarried mother, she happily lets herself be exploited with rueful wisecracking contentment.

Anne Chauveau successfully distinguishes between all four women with minimal changes to hair and clothing—as successfully, indeed, as the starliner actress in Wesker's West End female compendium *Annie Wobblers* who enjoyed greater resources of costume and make-up—with a nice touch of juggling Jewish wryness for the old spinster. She even moves the furniture on Paul Minter's set while transmuting, changing, transforming. Various gaudy gauds, produces, stages.

Martin Hoyle

## Dance Umbrella

STEPHEN PETRONIO, who made an impressive London debut in last year's *Dance Umbrella* season, has returned under the same auspices for a series of performances at the Riverside Studios, Hammer-smith. His programme brings one novelty, *Simulacrum Reels*, together with two pieces seen on his previous visit: *Number Three* and *Walk In*.

The effect of Petronio's style remains as abrasive and uncompromising as it did at our first exposure to it: the dance is wrenched from bodies as limbs fall and the members of his company battle with interior forces that threaten to tear them apart. It is a manner of performance that is a study in physical disquiet. The jagged shapes of the choreography, the harsh flare of energy, becomes at the last monotonous.

The scores for *Simulacrum Reels* and *Walk In* by David Linton have, fortissimo, and could well be qualified as "Music to have a Migraine by." (*Number Three* has a minimalist score for horns that is soporific by comparison.) Petronio's taste is for combative aggressive effects: the seven members of the company are driven to what seem the further limits of physical endea-

vour. This unrelenting quality beats at the senses, as does the Linton music, and argues a world of nervous dynamism that is urban, tense and dislocated.

There are moments when Petronio's fragmentation of movement has brusquely a strange, promising power: we accept the imagery as expressive of a dangerous and inimical society. But the combination of these disjoint fragments, particles of action, the dancers whirling past in some race against unimaginable terrors, lacks variety, and ultimately defeats its own muscular vehemence. There is no resolution of the tensions, no success from the exhausting rush of physical disquiet. The jagged shapes of the choreography, the harsh flare of energy, becomes at the last monotonous.

More intriguing, despite the evident skill of the dancers, is Petronio's own solo, *Number Three*. Rooted to the spot, he gestures, exorcising phantasms of activity from his arms and torso, conveying by the very limitations of the dance form a search for release from the dynamics that rack his frame. It is odd, disturbing, memorable.

Clement Crisp

## Suk & the ECO

FEW PERFORMERS today can claim such distinguished musical ancestry as the Czech violinist Josef Suk—who is both the grandson of the Czech composer (1874-1935) of the same name, and the great-grandson of Antonín Dvořák. Suk was the conductor/soloist of Thursday's English Chamber Orchestra concert; and not surprisingly he chose to frame the pair of violin concertos he performed with works by Josef Suk the Elder and Dvořák.

Suk and the ECO ended their evening with Dvořák's E major Serenade for strings: good-humoured, buoyant early Dvořák, done with style and vigour (if somewhat less of rhythmic fizz); and began it with Josef Suk's *Meditation on an old Bohemian romance* on 35a—a short, intense, well-mannered and fairly predictable piece of late-romantic notepinning for strings dating from 1914.

It was not an exciting con-

cert. Of the two concertos Suk played and directed from the rostrum, that in G major by the Bohemian composer Johann Baptist Vanhal (1798-1813) is a charming and perfectly decent pre-classical piece of no particular distinction. He delivered it cleanly and clearly, but without notable enthusiasm; most consistently engaging by a long way was the marvellous luminous tone he drew from his instrument—a violin, the Elman Stradivari, as illustrious of lineage as its present owner.

The other concerto Suk played was the earlier and lesser of Mozart's two concertos in D (K211). He did not coax much bounce from his accompanying players but his own performance had a robust and attractive sparkle, and the finale especially was seized with splendidly incisive rhythmic (and tonal) attack.

Dominic Gill

## URBAN RENEWAL

The Financial Times proposes to publish a survey on the above on:  
Friday November 6 1987  
Topics proposed for discussion include:  
The Scale of the Problem  
Mechanisms for Renewal  
Financing Renewal  
The Urban Workforce  
Housing  
Political Tensions  
The Future of City Centres  
London  
Overseas Experience  
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## WEEKEND FT

SPORT

Jason Steger looks at a snooker entrepreneur turned fight promoter

## Hearn keeps a weather eye open

LIKE MOST people in Britain, snooker entrepreneur Barry Hearn has been obsessed with the weather for the past couple of weeks.

He has not been worried by falling chimney stacks, flooded sitting rooms or uprooted trees, rather Hearn's eyes have been fixed firmly on the weather forecast specifically for the area in north London round Tottenham Hotspur's White Hart Lane ground. There he is the promoter of tonight's long-awaited fight between Frank Bruno and the newly Australianised former British and European champion Joe Bugner.

"The question of the weather petrifies me," admits Hearn. "I look up and say 'I dare you to rain on the 24th, I dare you to do something to me'."

Bruno's last fight was outdoors in Marbella, Spain. It was postponed for 24 hours because of torrential rain.

It is not surprising that Hearn is worried. With more than 30,000 people expected tonight — he assumes some will be put off by the weather — gate receipts alone should top £2m. Hearn is genuinely chuffed to be staging what has become the biggest sporting spectacle in the country.

Contrary to the impression of last-minute negotiations given by the extreme type in the tabloid papers, in which the battle between the two boxers has been almost overshadowed by the squabbles involving Hearn's wife Marlene, and his former wife, Hearn had long been negotiating for the fight.

"The work had effectively been done but there was one thing holding everything up. Bruno was booked to fight Trevor Berbick. I'd been in touch with Bugner for months. Then Berbick pulled out and I was ready to go."

"The problem was never Bugner. It was always Lawless and Wembley and his other commitments. Obviously there have been people upset—Wembley, after all they didn't get the fight—but we live in a competitive world."

Competition is something that Hearn is certainly not afraid of. He wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth but through sheer hard work and a considerable amount of good fortune he's earned enough to

buy more silver spoons than he could ever hope to use.

He was born in Dagenham in 1958 but will forever be associated with Romford through the success of his Matchroom company and his stable of seven top snooker players, including world champion Steve Davis.

He became an accountant — "all ambitious kids on a council estate wanted a profession and my mother told me that she'd never seen a postman" — and joined Thomson McLintock, now Peat Marwick, and also his auditors. He left in 1973 to be finance director of a textile design company.

"My job was to diversify them and one of the things I bought was snooker. I remember, the only one that was successful — was a chain of snooker clubs. They had good cash flow and there were great underlying assets as it was an old-established company with a lot of freehold town-centre sites. I couldn't see any downside."

He signed the deal for the Lucania chain in Bertorelli's restaurant but made his best signing in 1978 in a Blackpool bus shelter when he snapped up Steve Davis.

The rise of snooker has been inextricably linked with the rise of Hearn and his Matchroom team. Apart from remarkable success on the table, Hearn's extraordinary business and marketing talents have ensured that all his players are very wealthy men.

Hearn resigned from snooker's governing body a few weeks ago to be able to concentrate on his own tournaments. His World Series will take the top 11 players in the world to eight cities in five continents.

Hearn is not the sort of man who likes to sit behind a desk — although he has a huge one in his Romford office — and not involved in what is going on outside.

At one stage he planned to float Matchroom on the USM. "I don't think it's really for me. It's not my style. In terms of worth in a business, I like to see tangible things. I don't like the Stock Exchange particularly. I don't like the idea of what I do in a sporting sense — the hype — in a monetary sense."



Barry Hearn may be on the ropes here but he is hoping the weather doesn't spoil his chance of being a winner tonight.

"When floating Matchroom wasn't possible because of tax concerns for the players, I didn't want to do it just to make money for myself because I would have been surrendering my independence. I'm not sure I want the responsibility of shareholders' funds, a track record or, God forbid, criticism at AGMs. I don't suffer criticism too well."

The rise of snooker is also inextricably associated with its coverage by TV. But for his second boxing evening Hearn on the motivation of staging the spectacle, "the sheer

of choice with snooker. You get only 1,000 people there paying a tenner a ticket so when a TV company comes in and says 'fifty grand' that are you going to do? With boxing, it's the other way round. We're getting £2.5m a fight and they can't afford that kind of money."

However, Hearn has since come in for considerable criticism for allowing TV airing of the fight a matter of minutes after its scheduled finish. But it is not just a question of making money that drives Hearn on this occasion.

Apart from the motivation of staging the spectacle, "the sheer

extravaganza of the gamble," as he puts it, he wants to refurbish the somewhat tarnished image of the noble sport.

Hearn is well aware that in getting the fight that so many people want to see he has scooped the big one, and more than anyone he sees the connections between the two sports he has become involved in.

"It is like theatre, it is not a fight. In the same way that snooker's not a sport, it is a soap opera. It is personalities and characters that sell tickets. There is no way 40,000 people are going to sit out in the cold to watch a boxing match. They are there for a whole variety of reasons: some will be there because of the Cooper fight, some will be there because they do not like Australians; others because they do not like coloured guys; some because they do not like white guys. It is a bit of a mix of all these things. It is pure theatre."

"Can you say you are watching the two best fighters in the world? No. Can you say you are looking at the two best heavyweights this country has ever produced? Probably not. What a well-matched fight, though. A black guy, a white guy. A good guy, a bad guy. The fellow that ran off, a bloke that's been boring, a bloke whose chin's a bit suspect. That's the sort of ingredients. The atmosphere will be fantastic."

Hearn has certainly landed on his feet and he will be laughing all the way to the bank — despite paying Bugner a guaranteed £250,000 and Bruno £125,000 — and he has even captured the do-or-die nature of the fight by giving it a title: "The last word is... goodbye."

While the winner could get a fight against the awesomely brutal world champion, Mike Tyson, the loser faces a more peaceful, but richer, future outside the ring.

Hearn, though, will only relax when the bell for round one goes. "I may have a large drink," he says with the air of a man looking forward to a chance to relax... albeit for only a short while. He hopes to have at least one player in tomorrow's Rothmans Grand Prix snooker final and on Friday flies to New York to run in the marathon.

## Soccer



Nicholas: What are his options?

## What's up with Charlie?

FOUR YEARS is a long time in football. More than long enough for a promising career to end up in a cul-de-sac.

When Charlie Nicholas arrived in London from Glasgow Celtic in 1983, he had the world almost literally at his feet. Just 21, he'd signed a fat four-year contract with one of the game's biggest names, Arsenal.

Today, the streets round Highbury stadium may still be paved with gold, but Nicholas, dropped after just three games of the season, cannot get a game. Second division Blackburn wanted him, but on loan. French side Toulon wanted him, but talks collapsed after the player agreed terms.

Nicholas was a proven goalscorer with Celtic, scoring 50 in his last season there. He hit the net spectacularly in his international debut, and scored twice in his first four international appearances. But there was also some prophetic reminiscing about another gifted, expensive young Scot who went to Arsenal in a blaze of hype, and flopped: Peter Maricle.

Many fans feel Nicholas should not have joined Arsenal, but Liverpool. The fleeting glimpses of a Nicholas-Dalglish combination in Scotland's colours were exciting. These days, however, they would have torn the heart out of any defence. What a pity Dalglish did not find a worthy partner until the twilight of his international career. What a pity Nicholas opted not to attend Liverpool university to further his soccer education. At the sterile, technic that is the modern Arsenal, Nicholas has 151 league appearances.

Kevin McKenna, editor of Celtic View, has clear views on the 1987 model of a former idol. "The ballmarks of his game have disappeared in his four years with Arsenal," he says. "He has lost a yard or two of pace, and is carrying more weight. I think it was a mistake to bring him to London, and being coached by Don Howe."

The Arsenal fans, fed on a diet of tedium since the departure of Liam Brady for Italy, recognised his skill and charisma and took Nicholas to their hearts. Management never took to Charlie in the same way. Terry Neill, later a pundit, bought Nicholas, but never seemed comfortable with his skills. Neill's immediate

Arsenal will get their money back. The player becomes a free agent again at the end of this season.

Asked what has gone wrong with Nicholas, Graham absolves himself from any blame. "I don't know what went wrong," he told me. "I've only had him a year, and I've not seen the best of him. I've no complaints at all with his attitude. Hopefully he'll fight his way back into the team."

So whether Charlie Nicholas, now his options have virtually disappeared? Under Graham, Arsenal are getting into an efficient, though low-scoring match-winning unit. The cheap and cheerful Perry Groves is preferred up front, paired with Alan Smith, a near-million pound signing last season from Leicester.

Liverpool must surely take a breather after their £5.2m spree which bought them three forwards, and yet another midfielder. It is difficult to see how Nicholas could be shoehorned into an already intimidatingly large, expensive, squad.

Celtic manager Billy McNeill wanted him in the summer, and Nicholas nearly went. But he has slapped the club in the face twice, and it is unlikely he will be offered a contract this time. Celtic just spent heavily on buying striker Frank McAvennie from West Ham, even though Nicholas was available.

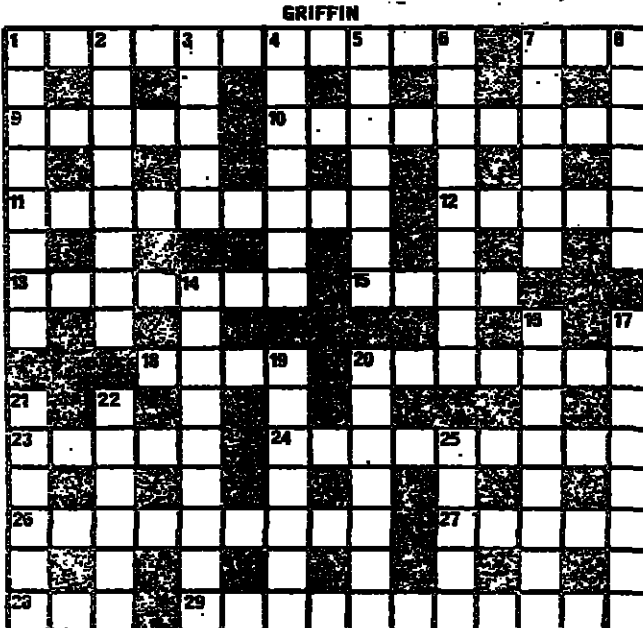
Nicholas could yet be an excellent player, given the right coaching and discipline. Scotland's caretaker manager Alex Ferguson proved this just over a year ago in the Mexico World Cup. He worked a near miracle, and Nicholas looked the only genuinely world-class Scot in the squad, before being hacked out of the competition after an hour or so.

After the collapse of talks with Toulon, given the right coaching and discipline, Scotland's caretaker manager Alex Ferguson proved this just over a year ago in the Mexico World Cup. He worked a near miracle, and Nicholas looked the only genuinely world-class Scot in the squad, before being hacked out of the competition after an hour or so.

Whatever he eventually decides, Charlie Nicholas must now realise that while to sign for Arsenal once was unfortunate, signing twice was careless.

Brian Bollen

## FT CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 6,464



Prizes of £10 each for the first five correct solutions opened. Solutions, to be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword on the envelope, to The Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Solution next Saturday.

- ACROSS
- One linked with cigarettes? (5)
  - Forbidden 28 leaving, notwithstanding (5)
  - Start talking language free of superfluous words (5)
  - Enter crowd, ordered into custody (5)
  - Help nurse out and fill up again (5)
  - Express failing outside Oldham initially (5)
  - Twice ring us, being insensitive (7)
  - Returns the automatic catches (4)
  - Quit side (4)
  - Was once raised to cover cold passenger compartment (7)
  - Tea at home in Ware (5)
  - Division meant me travelling round America (5)
  - Rap minder for exploding rocket (5)
  - Caught a bus outside when returning driving equipment (5)
  - Having 7 across missing, forbidden attempt (5)
  - Photograph strange gentlemen embracing backward artist (11)

- DOWN
- Fall which blurs the vision (5)
  - Suddenly get rough but play around back door (8)
  - Ring off once outside, that is relative (5)
  - Becomes a union member (7)
  - Man outside long room (7)
  - Considered accepting modification oven when repaired (5)
  - Extremely cold fellow, very strict (5)
  - Raising money used to curdle milk (6)
  - In effect, about four surgeons do it (9)
  - He'd scattered clues around the table (8)

1 Across: CIGARETTES  
2 Down: BLIND  
3 Across: FREE  
4 Down: CATCHES  
5 Across: NURSE  
6 Down: FAILING  
7 Across: RINGS  
8 Down: RETURNS  
9 Across: QUIT  
10 Down: COVER  
11 Across: TEA  
12 Down: DIVISION  
13 Across: RAP  
14 Down: CAUGHT  
15 Across: BUS  
16 Down: HAVING  
17 Across: PHOTOGRAPH  
18 Down: FALL  
19 Down: SUDDENLY  
20 Across: RING  
21 Down: RELATIVE  
22 Across: BECOMES  
23 Down: MAN  
24 Across: CONSIDERED  
25 Down: EXTREMELY  
26 Across: RAISING  
27 Down: IN EFFECT  
28 Across: SURGEONS  
29 Down: HE'D

31 Across: CIGARETTES  
32 Down: BLIND  
33 Across: FREE  
34 Down: CATCHES  
35 Across: NURSE  
36 Down: FAILING  
37 Across: RINGS  
38 Down: RETURNS  
39 Across: QUIT  
40 Down: COVER  
41 Across: TEA  
42 Down: DIVISION  
43 Across: RAP  
44 Down: CAUGHT  
45 Across: BUS  
46 Down: HAVING  
47 Across: PHOTOGRAPH  
48 Down: FALL  
49 Down: SUDDENLY  
50 Across: RING  
51 Down: RELATIVE  
52 Across: BECOMES  
53 Down: MAN  
54 Across: CONSIDERED  
55 Down: EXTREMELY  
56 Across: RAISING  
57 Down: IN EFFECT  
58 Across: SURGEONS  
59 Down: HE'D

## SATURDAY

1 Indicates programme in black and white

BBC1  
8.30 am Rovers, 8.35 Saturday Sports, 9.00 News, 9.15 The Muppet Show, 9.30 Goin' Live, 10.15 pm News, 10.30 Grandstand, 11.15 pm News, 11.30 World Championship, 1.00 News, 1.15 pm News, 1.30 Racing from Newbury, 1.45 News, 2.00 Racing from Newbury, 2.15 News, 2.30 Racing from Newbury, 2.45 News, 3.00 Racing from Newbury, 3.15 News, 3.30 Racing from Newbury, 3.45 News, 4.00 Racing from Newbury, 4.15 News, 4.30 Racing from Newbury, 4.45 News, 5.00 Racing from Newbury, 5.15 News, 5.30 Racing from Newbury, 5.45 News, 6.00 Racing from Newbury, 6.15 News, 6.30 Racing from Newbury, 6.45 News, 7.00 Racing from Newbury, 7.15 News, 7.30 Racing from Newbury, 7.45 News, 8.00 Racing from Newbury, 8.15 News, 8.30 Racing from Newbury, 8.45 News, 9.00 Racing from Newbury, 9.15 News, 9.30 Racing from Newbury, 9.45 News, 10.00 Racing from Newbury, 10.15 News, 10.30 Racing from Newbury, 10.45 News, 11.00 Racing from Newbury, 11.15 News, 11.30 Racing from Newbury, 11.45 News, 12.00 Racing from Newbury, 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